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Measurement of the properties of a Higgs boson in the four-lepton final state

CMS Collaboration ; Chatrchyan, S ; Khachatryan, V ; Sirunyan, A M ; et al ; Chiochia, V ;
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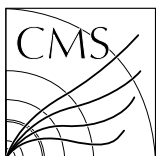
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Measurement of the properties of a Higgs boson in the four-lepton final state

The CMS Collaboration*

Abstract

The properties of a Higgs boson candidate are measured in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ decay channel, with $\ell = e, \mu$, using data from pp collisions corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 5.1 fb^{-1} at center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ and 19.7 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$, recorded with the CMS detector at the LHC. The new boson is observed as a narrow resonance with a local significance of 6.8 standard deviations, a measured mass of $125.6 \pm 0.4 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.2 \text{ (syst.) GeV}$, and a total width $\leq 3.4 \text{ GeV}$ at a 95% confidence level. The production cross section of the new boson times the branching fraction to four leptons is measured to be $0.93^{+0.26}_{-0.23} \text{ (stat.)}^{+0.13}_{-0.09} \text{ (syst.)}$ times that predicted by the standard model. Its spin-parity properties are found to be consistent with the expectations for the standard model Higgs boson. The hypotheses of a pseudoscalar and all tested spin-one boson hypotheses are excluded at a 99% confidence level or higher. All tested spin-two boson hypotheses are excluded at a 95% confidence level or higher.

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1 Introduction

The standard model (SM) of particle physics [1–5] describes very successfully the electroweak and strong interactions of elementary particles over a wide range of energies. In the SM, the massive mediators of the electroweak force, the W and Z bosons, acquire mass through the mechanism of spontaneous symmetry breaking [6–11]. This mechanism introduces a complex scalar field with four degrees of freedom, three of which lead to the W and Z bosons acquiring mass while the fourth gives rise to a physical particle, the scalar Higgs boson (H). The masses of the fermions arise through Yukawa interactions between the fermions and the scalar field [12, 13]. The mass of the Higgs boson (m_H) is a free parameter of the model and has to be determined experimentally. General theoretical considerations on the unitarity of the SM [14–17] suggest that m_H should be smaller than ≈ 1 TeV, while precision electroweak measurements imply that $m_H < 152$ GeV at a 95% confidence level (CL) [18]. Using about 5 fb^{-1} of data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV in 2011 and about 5 fb^{-1} of additional data collected in the first half of 2012 at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV, the ATLAS and CMS experiments have reported the discovery of a new boson at a mass around 125 GeV, with properties compatible with those of the SM Higgs boson [19–21]. Previously, direct searches for the Higgs boson have been carried out at the LEP collider, leading to a lower bound of $m_H > 114.4$ GeV at a 95% CL [22], and at the Tevatron proton-antiproton collider, excluding the mass range 162–166 GeV at a 95% CL [23] and indicating a broad excess of events in the range 120–135 GeV [24, 25].

Searches for the SM Higgs boson in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ ($\ell = e, \mu$) channel at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) have been previously performed using a sample corresponding to an integrated luminosity of about 5 fb^{-1} of 2011 data by the ATLAS [26–28] and Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) [29–31] collaborations. After the new boson discovery, the spin-parity properties have been further studied by both experiments, using more data. The pseudoscalar hypothesis is excluded by CMS [32] and ATLAS experiments [33, 34] at a 95% CL or higher. ATLAS has also excluded at 99% CL the hypotheses of vector, pseudovector, and graviton-like spin-two bosons, under certain assumptions on their production mechanisms [34].

In this paper, the analysis of the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ channel is presented using the entire dataset collected by the CMS experiment during the 2011–2012 LHC running period. The data correspond to an integrated luminosity of 5.1 fb^{-1} of pp collisions at center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV, and 19.7 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV. The search looks for a signal consisting of two pairs of same-flavor, opposite-charge well identified and isolated leptons, e^+e^- , $\mu^+\mu^-$, compatible with a ZZ system, where one or both the Z bosons can be off-shell, appearing as a narrow resonance on top of a smooth background in the four-lepton invariant mass distribution. Improved calibrations and alignment constants with respect to those used in [20, 21, 32], based on the full dataset, are used in the reconstruction of the events considered for this paper. The statistical significance of the observation of the new boson in the four-lepton decay mode is reported, together with measurements of the boson’s mass and cross section times branching fraction with respect to the SM prediction, an upper limit on the boson’s width, and the compatibility of the boson with nine alternative spin-parity hypotheses. The compatibility of the data with a mixed scalar/pseudoscalar state is also assessed. A search is also conducted for additional resonances compatible with the SM Higgs boson in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ channel in the mass range 110–1000 GeV.

The paper is organized as follows. The apparatus, the data samples and the online selection, are described in Sections 2 through 4. Sections 5 through 7 describe the reconstruction and identification algorithms used in this analysis for leptons, photons, and jets. The event selection and categorization are discussed in Section 8. The background estimation is described

in Section 9. Kinematic discriminants used to further improve the separation between signal and background and to test the spin-parity of the new boson are presented in Section 10. The event yields, kinematic distributions, and measured properties are discussed in Sections 11 through 13.

2 The CMS detector

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter. Within the superconducting solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass/scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL). Muons are detected in gas-ionization detectors embedded in the iron flux return placed outside the solenoid. Extensive forward calorimetry complements the coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors. The CMS detector is described in detail in Ref. [35].

The CMS experiment uses a coordinate system, with the origin at the nominal interaction point, the x axis pointing to the center of the LHC ring, the y axis pointing up (perpendicular to the LHC ring), and the resulting z axis along the beam direction using a right-handed convention. The polar angle θ is measured from the positive z axis and the azimuthal angle ϕ is measured in the x - y plane in radians. The pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$.

The inner tracker measures charged particles trajectories within the range $|\eta| < 2.5$. It consists of 1440 silicon pixel and 15 148 silicon strip detector modules and is immersed in the 3.8 T field of the superconducting solenoid. It provides an impact parameter resolution of $\approx 15 \mu\text{m}$ and a transverse momentum (p_T) resolution of about 1.5% for 100 GeV particles [36, 37].

The ECAL consists of 75 848 lead tungstate crystals and provides coverage of $|\eta| < 1.479$ in the barrel region (EB), and $1.479 < |\eta| < 3.0$ in the two endcap regions (EE). The EB uses 23 cm long crystals with front face cross sections of around $2.2 \text{ cm} \times 2.2 \text{ cm}$, whilst the EE comprises 22 cm long crystals with front face cross sections of $2.86 \text{ cm} \times 2.86 \text{ cm}$. A preshower detector consisting of two planes of silicon sensors interleaved with a total of 3 radiation lengths of lead is located in front of the EE. The ECAL energy resolution for electrons with transverse energy $E_T \approx 45 \text{ GeV}$ from the $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decays is better than 2% in the central region of the EB ($|\eta| < 0.8$), and is between 2% and 5% elsewhere. For low-bremsstrahlung electrons that have 94% or more of their energy contained within a 3×3 array of crystals, the energy resolution improves to 1.5% for $|\eta| < 0.8$ [38]. The Gaussian resolution of the dielectron mass distribution for a Z-boson sample, when both electrons belong to this class, is $0.97 \pm 0.01 \text{ GeV}$ in $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ data.

The HCAL is a sampling calorimeter with brass as the passive material and plastic scintillator tiles serving as active material, providing coverage of $|\eta| < 2.9$. The calorimeter cells are grouped in projective towers of granularity $\Delta\eta \times \Delta\phi = 0.087 \times 0.087$ in the HB and $\Delta\eta \times \Delta\phi \approx 0.17 \times 0.17$ in the HE, the exact granularity depending on $|\eta|$. A hadron forward calorimeter extends the coverage up to $|\eta| < 5.2$.

Muons are detected in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.4$, with detection planes made using three technologies: drift tubes, cathode strip chambers, and resistive-plate chambers. The global fit of the muon tracks matched to the tracks reconstructed in the silicon tracker results in a transverse momentum resolution, averaged over ϕ^μ and η^μ , from 1.8% at $p_T^\mu = 30 \text{ GeV}$ to 2.3% at $p_T^\mu = 50 \text{ GeV}$ [37].

3 Simulated data samples

The Monte Carlo (MC) simulated samples, generated with programs based on state-of-the-art theoretical calculations for both the SM Higgs boson signal and relevant background processes, are used to optimize the event selection and to evaluate the acceptance and systematic uncertainties. The samples of Higgs boson signal events produced in either gluon fusion ($gg \rightarrow H$) or vector-boson fusion ($qq \rightarrow qqH$) processes are generated with the POWHEG [39–41] generator at next-to-leading order (NLO) accuracy. The Higgs boson decay is modeled with JHUGEN 3.1.8 [42–44] and includes proper treatment of interference effects associated with permutations of identical leptons in the four-electron and four-muon final states. Alternative spin-parity states are also modeled with JHUGEN, where production of spin-one and spin-two resonances is computed at leading order (LO) accuracy, followed by parton showers generated with PYTHIA 6.4 [45].

For low-mass Higgs boson hypotheses ($m_H < 400$ GeV), the Higgs boson lineshape is described with a Breit–Wigner (BW) distribution. At high mass ($m_H \geq 400$ GeV), because of the very large Higgs boson width ($\Gamma_H > 70$ GeV), the lineshape is described using the complex-pole scheme (CPS) [46–48]. The inclusive cross section for every m_H is computed including corrections due to the CPS [49]. The interference between the Higgs boson signal produced by gluon fusion and the background from $gg \rightarrow ZZ$ is taken into account, as suggested in Ref. [50]. The theoretical uncertainty in the shape of the resonance due to missing NLO corrections in the interference between background and signal is considered, as well as the uncertainties due to electroweak corrections [47, 50, 51]. Samples of WH, ZH, and $t\bar{t}H$ events are generated with PYTHIA. Higgs boson signal events for all the production mechanisms are reweighted using the generator-level invariant mass, to include contributions from gluon fusion up to next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) and next-to-next-to-leading logarithm (NNLL) [52–64], and from the vector-boson fusion (VBF) contribution computed at NNLO in Refs. [56, 65–69].

The dominant background to the Higgs signal in this channel is the SM ZZ or $Z\gamma^*$ production via $q\bar{q}$ annihilation and gluon fusion, which is referred to as ZZ in what follows. Smaller contributions arise from Z + jets and $t\bar{t}$ production where the final states contain two isolated leptons and two heavy-flavor jets producing secondary leptons. Additional backgrounds arise from Z + jets, $Z\gamma$ + jets, WW + jets, and WZ + jets events where misidentified leptons can arise from decays of heavy-flavor hadrons, in-flight decays of light mesons within jets, and, in the case of electrons, overlaps of π^0 decays with charged hadrons. The ZZ production via $q\bar{q}$ is generated at NLO with POWHEG [70], while the WW , WZ processes are generated with MADGRAPH [71] and normalized to cross sections computed at NLO. The $gg \rightarrow ZZ$ contribution is generated with GG2ZZ [72]. The $Zb\bar{b}$, $Zc\bar{c}$, $Z\gamma$, and Z + light jets samples (referred as Z + jets in the following) are generated with MADGRAPH, comprising inclusive Z production up to four additional partons at the matrix-element level, which is normalized to the cross section computed at NNLO. The $t\bar{t}$ events are generated at NLO with POWHEG. The event generator takes into account the internal initial-state and final-state radiation effects which can lead to the presence of additional hard photons in an event. In the case of LO generators, the CTEQ6L [73] set of parton distribution functions (PDFs) are used, while the CT10 [74] set is used for the NLO and higher-orders generators.

All generated samples are processed with PYTHIA for jet fragmentation and showering. For the underlying event, the PYTHIA 6.4 tunes Z2 and Z2*, which rely on p_T -ordered showers, are used for 7 and 8 TeV MC samples, respectively [75]. Events are processed through the detailed simulation of the CMS detector based on GEANT4 [76, 77] and are reconstructed with the same algorithms as used for data. The simulations include overlapping pp interactions

(pileup) matching the distribution of the number of interactions per LHC beam crossing observed in data. The average number of measured pileup interactions is approximately 9 and 21 in the 7 and 8 TeV datasets, respectively.

4 Online event selection

The first level (L1) of the CMS trigger system, composed of custom hardware processors, uses information from the calorimeters and muon detectors to select the most interesting events in a time interval of less than $4\ \mu\text{s}$. The L1 trigger rate of 100 kHz is further reduced by the high-level trigger (HLT) processor farm to around 300 Hz before data storage.

Collision events analyzed in this paper are selected by the trigger system requiring the presence of two leptons: electrons or muons. The minimal transverse momentum of the leading and sub-leading lepton is 17 and 8 GeV, respectively, for both electrons and muons. The online selection includes double-electron, double-muon and mixed electron-muon triggers. In the case of the $4e$ final state, a triple-electron trigger is added with thresholds of 15, 8, and 5 GeV to increase the efficiency for low- p_T electrons. The trigger efficiency for events within the geometrical acceptance of this analysis is greater than 98% for a Higgs boson signal with $m_H > 110$ GeV. The same trigger paths are applied on the 7 and 8 TeV data, where different identification criteria are applied on the HLT lepton candidates to account for the different LHC conditions.

In addition to the events selected to form the four-lepton sample, dedicated triggers are used for lepton calibration and efficiency measurements. In the case of dimuon events, the online trigger algorithms used to select the signal events are sufficiently loose that they can also be used to measure the selection efficiency with the $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ events. In order to measure the selection efficiency of events with low- p_T leptons, low-mass resonances are used. Events corresponding to these low-mass resonances are collected in the dimuon case using dedicated triggers that require an opposite-sign muon pair, with dedicated kinematic conditions on the dimuon system. In the case of electrons, low-mass resonances are collected, with a smaller rate, with standard dielectron triggers. Two specialized triggers are introduced to maximize the number of $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ events covering both high- and low- p_T ranges. The one having the most stringent (relaxed) identification and isolation requirement on one electron requires the presence of a cluster in the electromagnetic calorimeter with $p_T > 8$ (17) GeV, forming an invariant mass with the other electron exceeding 50 GeV.

5 Lepton reconstruction and selection

The analysis is performed by reconstructing a ZZ system composed of two pairs of same-flavor and opposite-charge isolated leptons, e^+e^- or $\mu^+\mu^-$. The main background sources, described in Section 3, are the SM ZZ production, with smaller contributions from other diboson (WW, WZ) processes, single bosons with hadronic activity that can mimic lepton signatures, and top-quark-pair events. Given the very low branching fraction of the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ decay, of $\mathcal{O}(10^{-4})$ ($\mathcal{O}(10^{-3})$) for $m_H = 125$ (200) GeV[78], it is important to maintain a very high lepton selection efficiency in a wide range of momenta, to maximize the sensitivity for a Higgs boson within the mass range 110–1000 GeV.

The signal sensitivity also depends on the 4ℓ invariant mass resolution. The signal appears as a narrow resonance on top of a smooth background and therefore it is important to achieve the best possible four-lepton mass resolution. To obtain a precise measurement of the mass of a resonance decaying into four leptons, it is crucial to calibrate the individual lepton momentum

scale and resolution to a level such that the systematic uncertainty is substantially smaller than the statistical uncertainty in the current dataset. This section describes the techniques used in the analysis to select electrons and muons in order to achieve the best momentum resolution, measure the momentum scale, resolution, and selection efficiency, and derive corrections based on dilepton resonances.

The CMS particle flow (PF) algorithm [79–82], which combines information from all sub-detectors, is used to provide an event description in the form of reconstructed particle candidates. The PF candidates are then used to build higher-level objects, such as jets, missing transverse energy, and lepton isolation quantities.

5.1 Electron reconstruction and identification

Electron candidates are required to have a transverse momentum $p_T^e > 7 \text{ GeV}$ and be within the geometrical acceptance, defined by $|\eta^e| < 2.5$. The electron reconstruction combines information from the ECAL and the tracker [83–86]. Electron candidates are formed from arrays of energy clusters in ECAL (called superclusters) along the ϕ direction, which are matched to tracks in the silicon tracker. Superclusters, which recover the energy of bremsstrahlung photons emitted in the tracker material, are also used to identify hits in the innermost tracker layers in order to initiate the reconstruction of electron tracks. This track seeding procedure is complemented by an approach based on tracker seeds which improves the reconstruction efficiency at low p_T^e and in the transition between the EB and EE regions. Trajectories, when initiated both outside-in from the ECAL superclusters as well as inside-out from the measurements in the innermost tracker layers, are reconstructed using the Gaussian sum filter (GSF) algorithm [87], which accounts for the electron energy loss by bremsstrahlung. Additional requirements [38] are applied in order to reject electrons originating from photon conversions in the tracker material. Electron candidates are selected using loose criteria on track–supercluster matching observables that preserve the highest possible efficiency while removing part of the QCD background.

Electron identification relies on a multivariate discriminant that combines observables sensitive to the bremsstrahlung along the electron trajectory, the geometrical and momentum-energy matching between the electron trajectory and the associated supercluster, as well as ECAL shower-shape observables. The multivariate discriminant is trained using a sample of $\approx 10^7$ simulated Drell–Yan events for the signal (true electrons) and a high-purity $W + 1 \text{ jet}$ data sample for the background (misidentified electrons from jets). The expected performances are validated using misidentified electrons in a $Z(\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-) + 1 \text{ electron}$ and $Z(\rightarrow e^+e^-) + 1 \text{ electron}$ data samples, which have a η^e and p_T^e spectrum similar to the one for the electrons characterizing the reducible background from misidentified jets [86]. The selection is optimized in six regions of the electron p_T^e and $|\eta^e|$ to maximize the expected sensitivity for a low-mass Higgs boson. These regions correspond to two p_T^e ranges, 7–10 GeV and $>10 \text{ GeV}$, and three pseudorapidity regions, corresponding to two regions in the EB with different material in front of the ECAL, the central barrel ($|\eta^e| < 0.8$) and the outer barrel ($0.800 < |\eta^e| < 1.479$), in addition to the EE, $1.479 < |\eta^e| < 2.500$.

Several procedures are used to calibrate the energy response of individual crystals [38, 88]. The energy of the ECAL superclusters is corrected for the imperfect containment of the clustering algorithm, the electron energy not deposited in the ECAL, and leakage arising from showers near gaps between crystals or between ECAL modules. This is done using a regression technique based on boosted decision trees (BDT) [89] trained on a simulated dielectron sample with the pileup conditions equivalent to the ones measured on data, covering a flat spectrum in p_T^e

from 5 to 100 GeV. The variables include the electron supercluster raw energy, η and ϕ coordinates, several shower-shape variables of the cluster with largest energy within the supercluster (seed cluster), the ratio of the energy in the HCAL behind the seed cluster to the seed cluster energy, and the number of clusters in the electron supercluster. In addition, the distance of the seed crystal with respect to the gap between the ECAL modules, the η and ϕ coordinates of the seed cluster, and the energies of the first three sub-leading clusters in the supercluster, are used. A similar subset of variables is used depending on whether the electron is detected in the EB or EE. Using this multivariate technique, the effective width and Gaussian resolution of the reconstructed invariant mass are improved by 25% and 30% respectively for simulated $H \rightarrow 4e$ decays compared to those obtained with a more traditional approach based on ECAL-only energy measurements and corrections with a parameterized energy response obtained from simulation. The effective width, σ_{eff} , is defined as half-the-width of the smallest interval that contains 68.3% of the distribution.

The precision of the electron momentum measurement is dominated by the ECAL at high energies, whereas for low- p_T electrons the precision is dominated by the tracker momentum determination. Moreover, for electrons near poorly instrumented regions, such as the crack between the EB and the EE, the inter-module cracks [90], or regions close to dead channels, the measurement accuracy and resolution can also be improved by combining the ECAL energy with the track momentum. To account for biases arising from bremsstrahlung losses in the tracker material, electron categories are defined based on the cluster multiplicity inside the supercluster as well as on the amount of bremsstrahlung as estimated from the GSF. The magnitude of the electron momentum is then determined by combining the two estimates with a multivariate regression function that takes as input the corrected ECAL energy from the supercluster regression, the track momentum estimate, their respective uncertainties, the ratio of the corrected ECAL energy over the track momentum as obtained from the track fit, the uncertainty of this ratio, and the electron category, based on the amount of bremsstrahlung. The direction is taken from the fitted track parameters at the point of closest approach to the nominal beam spot position. Figure 1 (left) shows the reconstructed invariant mass for these decays, compared to the traditional approach for the electron energy estimation. The residual offset in the peak position ($<0.2\%$, black histogram in Fig. 1 (left)) is irrelevant for the analysis because the absolute electron momentum scale is calibrated using known resonances in data, as described in Section 5.4. Figure 1 (right) presents the expected effective resolution of the combined momentum measurement as a function of the electron momentum at the vertex. The expected effective momentum resolution for the ECAL-only and tracker-only estimates are also shown.

5.2 Muon reconstruction and identification

Muon candidates are required to have a transverse momentum $p_T^\mu > 5 \text{ GeV}$ and be within the geometrical acceptance, defined by $|\eta^\mu| < 2.4$. The reconstruction combines information from both the silicon tracker and the muon system. The matching between track segments is done either outside-in, starting from a track in the muon system, or inside-out, starting from a track in the silicon tracker. Both these candidates are referred to as global muons. As very-low- p_T muons ($p_T^\mu \lesssim 5 \text{ GeV}$) may not have sufficient energy to penetrate the entire muon system and leave track segments in one or two stations of the muon system, tracks matched to such segments form so-called tracker muon objects. More details on muon reconstruction in CMS can be found in Ref. [92]. Both global and tracker muons are used in this analysis.

The muons are selected among the reconstructed muon track candidates by applying minimal requirements on the track segments in both the muon system and inner tracker system and taking into account compatibility with small energy deposits in the calorimeters [82, 92].

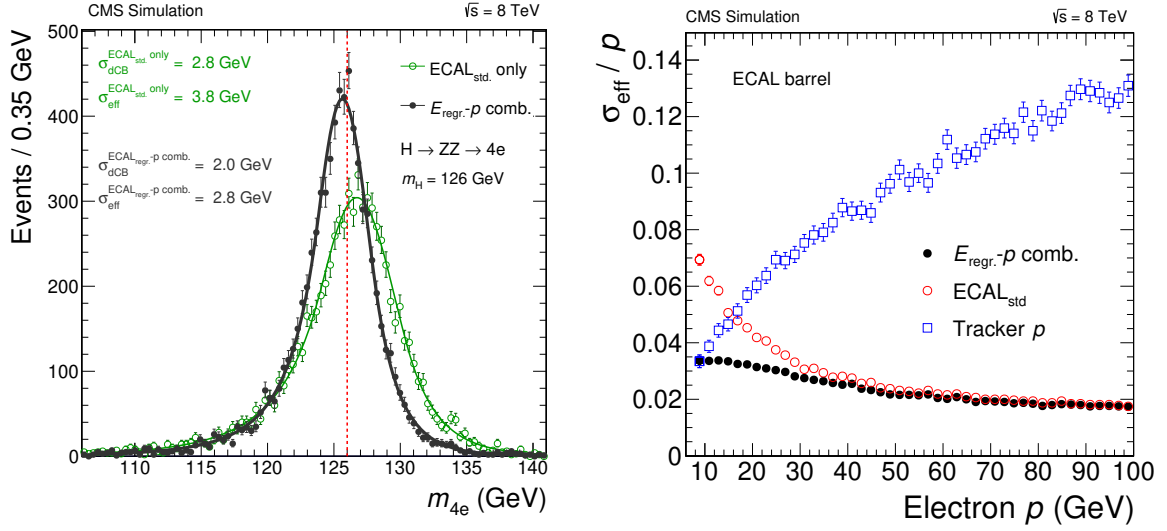


Figure 1: (left) Expected four-lepton mass distribution for $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4e$ for $m_H = 126$ GeV using ECAL-only electron momentum estimation (green open points: $ECAL_{std.}$ only), and using the method employed in this analysis (black full points: $E_{regr} - p$ combination). The fitted standard deviation, σ_{dCB} , of the double-sided Crystal Ball [91] function and effective width σ_{eff} defined in the text are indicated. Electrons with $p_T^e > 7$ GeV in the full η^e range are used. (right) Expected effective momentum resolution σ_{eff}/p for electrons in the EB as a function of the momentum for the ECAL-only, the tracker-only, and the combined estimates.

The p_T resolution for muons in the momentum range relevant for this analysis varies between 1.3 to 2.0% in the barrel, and up to 6% in the endcaps. The dominant effect determining this resolution is the multiple scattering of muons in the tracker material. The positions of the tracker modules are determined with a precision of 3–4 μm root mean square (RMS) in the barrel and 3–14 μm in the endcaps [37].

The accuracy of the hit measurements in the muon chambers and the overall alignment contribute to a lesser degree to the momentum measurement. This is achieved using several alignment procedures using cosmic muons, optical surveys, a laser system, and, finally, $Z \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ events.

5.3 Lepton isolation and vertex compatibility

Lepton isolation is used to discriminate leptons originating from high- p_T boson decay, as in the case of the signal, from those arising from hadronic processes, which are typically immersed in a jet of other hadrons.

The isolation of individual leptons, measured relative to their transverse momentum p_T^ℓ , is defined by:

$$R_{iso}^\ell \equiv \left(\sum p_T^{\text{charged}} + \max \left[0, \sum p_T^{\text{neutral}} + \sum p_T^\gamma - p_T^{\text{PU}}(\ell) \right] \right) / p_T^\ell, \quad (1)$$

where the sums are over charged and neutral PF candidates in a cone $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} < 0.4$ around the lepton direction at the interaction vertex, where $\Delta\eta = \eta^\ell - \eta^i$ and $\Delta\phi = \phi^\ell - \phi^i$ quantify the angular distance of the PF candidate i from the lepton ℓ , in η and ϕ directions, respectively. In Eq. (1), $\sum p_T^{\text{charged}}$ is the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of charged hadrons

originating from the chosen primary vertex of the event. The primary vertex is selected to be the one with the highest sum of p_T^2 of associated tracks. The sums $\sum p_T^{\text{neutral}}$ and $\sum p_T^\gamma$ are the scalar sums of the transverse momenta for neutral hadrons and photons, respectively. The latter excludes photons that are candidates for final-state radiation (FSR) from the lepton, as defined in Section 6. The contribution from pileup ($p_T^{\text{PU}}(\ell)$) in the isolation cone is subtracted from R_{Iso}^ℓ with different techniques for electrons and muons. For electrons, the FASTJET technique [93–95] is used, in which $p_T^{\text{PU}}(e) \equiv \rho \times A_{\text{eff}}$, where the effective area, A_{eff} , is the geometric area of the isolation cone scaled by a factor that accounts for the residual dependence of the average pileup deposition on the electron η^e . The variable ρ is defined as the median of the energy density distribution for the neutral particles within the area of any jet in the event, reconstructed using the anti- k_T clustering algorithm [96] with distance parameter $D = 0.5$, with $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 3 \text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 2.5$. For muons, $p_T^{\text{PU}}(\mu) \equiv 0.5 \times \sum_i p_T^{\text{PU},i}$, where i runs over the momenta of the charged hadrons PF candidates not originating from the primary vertex. The factor 0.5 in the sum corrects for the different fraction of charged and neutral particles in the isolation cone. The electrons or muons are considered isolated if $R_{\text{Iso}}^\ell < 0.4$. The isolation requirement has been optimized to maximize the discovery potential in the full m_H range of this analysis.

In order to suppress leptons originating from in-flight decays of hadrons and muons from cosmic rays, all leptons are required to come from the same primary vertex. This is achieved requiring $\text{SIP}_{3\text{D}} < 4$, where $\text{SIP}_{3\text{D}} \equiv \text{IP}_{3\text{D}}/\sigma_{\text{IP}_{3\text{D}}}$ is the ratio of the impact parameter of the lepton track ($\text{IP}_{3\text{D}}$) in three dimensions (3D), with respect to the chosen primary vertex position, and its uncertainty.

5.4 Lepton momentum scale, resolution and selection efficiency

The determination of the momentum differs for electrons and muons, and depends on the different CMS sub-detectors involved in their reconstruction. The CMS simulation used in this analysis is based on the best knowledge of the detector conditions, as encoded in the ECAL calibrations and tracker and muon system alignment. Nevertheless, small discrepancies between data and simulation remain. In the case of the electron momentum scale and resolution, the main sources of discrepancy are the residual tracker misalignment and the imperfect corrections at the crystal level of the transparency loss due to irradiation, especially in the forward region. The average measured drop in energy response, before the crystal calibrations, is about 2–3% in the barrel, rising to 20% in the range $2.1 \leq |\eta^e| \leq 2.5$ [38], and is reduced to a sub-percent level after the calibrations. In the case of muons, the momentum determination is affected by the tracker and muon system alignment geometry used for the reconstruction. The misalignment of the tracker causes a dependence of the systematic uncertainties in the reconstructed muon momentum on the η^μ , ϕ^μ , and charge measurements.

The momentum scale and resolution for electrons and muons are studied using different data control samples for different p_T^ℓ ranges. In the range of interest for this analysis ($p_T^\ell < 100 \text{ GeV}$), the dileptons from decays of the J/ψ , $\Upsilon(\text{nS})$ and Z resonances are used to calibrate or validate the momentum scale and measure the momentum resolution. The J/ψ and $\Upsilon(\text{nS})$ decays constitute a clean data source of low- p_T electrons and muons and are used to validate (calibrate) the electron (muon) momentum scale for $p_T^\ell < 20 \text{ GeV}$. The $Z \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ decay mode is a copious and pure source of leptons, with a wide momentum range covering the full spectrum of leptons of interest to this analysis. Table 1 provides the approximate number of dilepton resonance decays reconstructed in the 7 and 8 TeV data used for the calibration of the lepton momentum.

For electrons, the calibration procedure consists of three steps. First, a set of corrections for the momentum scale is obtained by comparing the displacement of the peak position in the distri-

Table 1: Number of $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$, $J/\psi \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ and $Y(nS) \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ [sum of $Y(1S)$, $Y(2S)$ and $Y(3S)$] used to calibrate or validate lepton momentum scale and resolution and to measure lepton efficiencies ($Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ only) in 7 and 8 TeV data. Low mass dimuon resonances are collected with specialized triggers.

ℓ	$Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$	$J/\psi \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$	$Y(nS) \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$
e	10^7	5×10^3	2.5×10^4
μ	1.4×10^7	2.7×10^7	1.5×10^7

Contributions of the Z-boson mass in the data and in the simulation in different η regions and in two categories depending on the amount of bremsstrahlung. The corrections are derived as a function of time in order to account for the time-dependent crystal transparency loss [38]. Second, a linearity correction to the momentum scale is applied to account for the p_T -dependent differences between data and simulation by comparing the dielectron mass distributions, binned in p_T^e of one of the two electrons, in data and in simulated $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ events. The $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^-$ and $Y(1S) \rightarrow e^+e^-$ events are used as validation for electron $p_T^e < 20$ GeV. All the corrections on the electron momentum scale from the first two steps are applied on data. Third, the energy of the single electrons in the simulation is corrected by applying a random Gaussian multiplicative factor of mean 1 and width $\Delta\sigma$, representing the additional smearing to be applied to the simulation in order to achieve the resolution observed in data Z-boson sample.

For muons, an absolute measurement of momentum scale and resolution is performed by using a reference model of the Z lineshape convolved with a Gaussian function. The bias in the reconstructed muon p_T is determined from the position of the Z mass peak as a function of muon kinematic variables, and a correction is derived for the data according to the procedure of Ref. [92]. A correction for the resolution is also derived for the simulation from a fit to the $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ mass spectrum. The large event sample based on low-mass dimuon resonances provides an additional calibration source for the momentum resolution in a similar manner.

After this calibration, the lepton momentum scale and resolution are validated in data using dileptons from J/ψ , $Y(nS)$ and Z decays in several bins of lepton η^ℓ and p_T^ℓ in order to cover the full momentum range relevant for the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ search. Electrons with $p_T^e > 7$ GeV and muons with $p_T^\mu > 5$ GeV are considered. For the selection of $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ events, all lepton selection criteria are applied as in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ analysis.

The events are separated in categories according to the p_T^e and $|\eta^e|$ of one of the electrons, integrating over the other, while for dimuons, the average p_T^μ and $|\eta^\mu|$ is used. The dilepton mass distributions in each category are fitted with a BW parameterization convolved with a single-sided Crystal Ball (CB) function [91] (dimuon resonances or dielectron J/ψ and $Y(1S)$) or with MC templates ($Z \rightarrow ee$). From these fits the offset in the measured peak position in data with respect to the nominal Z mass, $\Delta m_{\text{data}} = m_{\text{data}}^{\text{peak}} - m_Z$, with respect to that found in the simulation, $\Delta m_{\text{MC}} = m_{\text{MC}}^{\text{peak}} - m_Z$, is extracted. Figure 2 shows the relative difference between data and simulation of the dilepton mass scale. After the electron calibration the relative momentum scale between data and simulation is consistent within 0.2% in the central barrel and up to $\approx 0.3\%$ in the forward part of the ECAL endcaps. The residual dependence at low momentum is due to the use of wide bins in measured electron p_T^e in evaluating the Z-peak mass shift. The measured p_T^e dependence of the momentum scale before the p_T^e linearity correction, up to 0.6% in the central barrel and up to 1.5% in the endcap, is propagated to the reconstructed four-lepton mass from simulated Higgs-boson events. The resulting shift of 0.3%

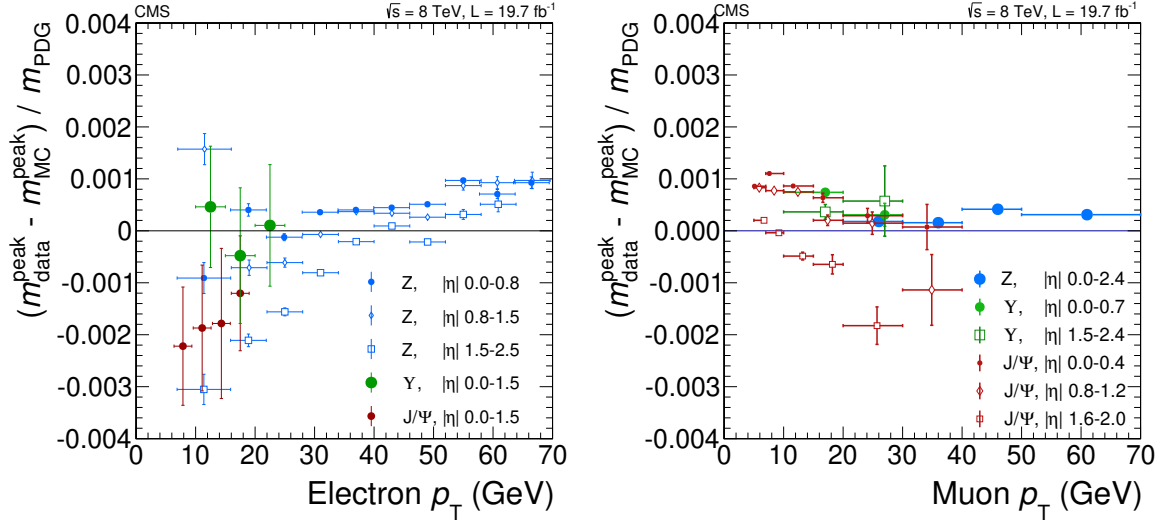


Figure 2: Relative difference between the dilepton mass peak positions in data and simulation as obtained from Z , J/ψ and $Y(nS)$ resonances as a function of (left) the transverse momentum of one of the electrons regardless of the second for dielectron events, and (right) the average muon p_T^μ for dimuon events for the 8 TeV data.

(0.1%) for the $4e$ ($2e2\mu$) channel is assigned as a systematic uncertainty in the signal mass scale. For muons, the agreement between the observed and simulated mass scales is within 0.1% in the entire pseudorapidity range of interest. A somewhat larger offset is seen for J/ψ events with two high- p_T^μ muons in the very forward region. However, for these events, the muons are nearly collinear and such a kinematic configuration is very atypical for the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ events. Hence, the observed larger mass scale offset for such events is irrelevant in the context of this analysis.

Similarly, the widths of the peak due to instrumental resolution in data, σ_{data} , and in the simulation, σ_{MC} , are compared. For electrons, σ_{eff} ranges from 1.2% for the best category, which consists of two central single-cluster electrons with a small amount of bremsstrahlung (“barrel golden” (BG) [97]), to 4% for the worst category, which consists of two electrons either with multiple-clusters or with a high amount of bremsstrahlung, one central and one forward (“barrel showering” (BS) and “endcap showering” (ES) [97]). The amount of the energy lost by bremsstrahlung before the electron reaches the ECAL is estimated with the GSF algorithm. The relative difference in σ_{eff} between data and simulation is less than 3%, for different electron categories (Fig. 3 a). For the muons, in the whole kinematic range considered for this analysis, the instrumental Z -peak mass resolution observed in data is consistent with that in the simulation within about 5%, when not considering J/ψ events with two high- p_T^μ , high- $|\eta^\mu|$ muons (Fig. 3 b).

The combined efficiency for the reconstruction, identification, and isolation (and conversion rejection for electrons) of prompt electrons or muons is measured in data using a “tag-and-probe” method [98] based on an inclusive sample of Z -boson events, separately for 7 and 8 TeV data. The efficiency is measured from the $Z \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ yields obtained by fitting the Z lineshape plus a background model to the dilepton mass distributions in two samples, the first with the probe lepton satisfying the selection criteria, the second with the probe lepton failing them. The same approach is used in data and simulation, and the ratio of the efficiency in the different p_T^ℓ and η^ℓ bins of the probed lepton is used in the analysis to rescale the selection efficiency in

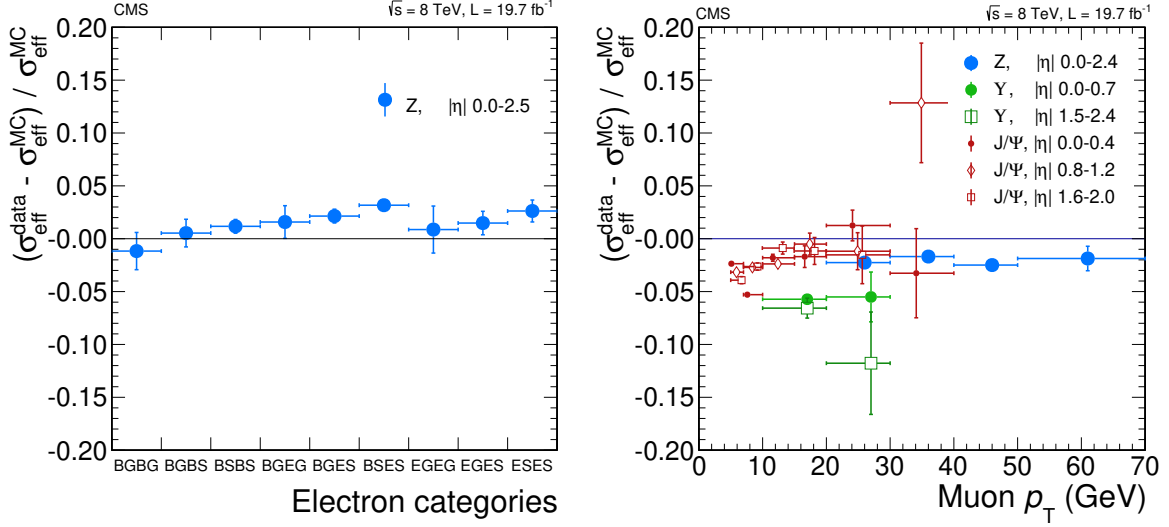


Figure 3: (left) Relative difference between the dielectron σ_{eff} in data and simulation, as measured from $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ events, where the electrons are classified into different categories (B: barrel, E: endcaps, G: golden, S: showering). (right) Relative difference between the dimuon mass resolutions in data and simulation as measured from J/ψ , $Y(nS)$ and Z decays, as function of the average muon p_T^μ . The uncertainties shown are statistical only. Results are presented for data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV.

the simulated samples. The efficiencies for reconstructing and selecting electrons and muons in the full p_T^ℓ and η^ℓ range exploited in this analysis are shown in Fig. 4. The deviation of the efficiency in simulation relative to data, for the majority of the phase space of the leptons, is less than 3% for both electrons and muons. In the case of electrons with $p_T^\ell < 15$ GeV the deviation is larger, 5–9%, but still consistent with unity, given the large statistical uncertainty. The dependency of the reconstruction and selection efficiency on the number of reconstructed primary vertices in the event is negligible for both the 7 and 8 TeV data samples.

6 Final-state radiation recovery

A Z-boson decay into a lepton pair can be accompanied by final-state radiation, in which case it is desirable to identify and associate the radiated photon to the corresponding lepton to form the Z boson candidate: $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-\gamma$. Photons reconstructed within $|\eta^\gamma| < 2.4$ are possible FSR candidates. Low-energy photons are identified and reconstructed with the PF reconstruction with a dedicated clustering algorithm, efficient down to an energy of 230 MeV in the EB and 600 MeV in the EE [81]. The determination of the photon energies and directions is monitored in the data with $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decays, and is in agreement with the predictions from simulation.

Final-state radiated photons are mostly produced with a direction nearly collinear with the parent lepton and have a harder spectrum than background photons from initial-state radiation or pileup interactions. Therefore, to be identified as FSR, a reconstructed photon must either have a transverse momentum $p_T^\gamma > 2$ GeV and be found within a cone of size $\Delta R < 0.07$ from a selected lepton candidate, or have $p_T^\gamma > 4$ GeV and be found isolated from charged particles and energy deposits and within $0.07 < \Delta R < 0.5$ from a selected lepton candidate.

The photon isolation observable R_{Iso}^γ is the sum of the transverse momenta of charged hadrons, other photons, and neutral hadrons (including the ones originating from other vertices with

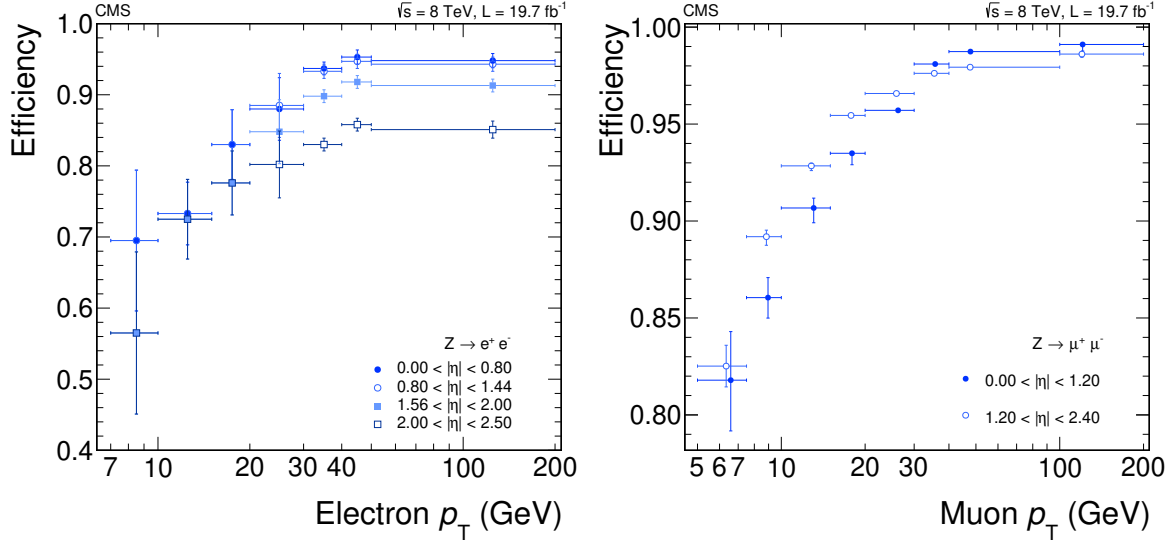


Figure 4: Efficiency, as a function of the lepton p_T^ℓ , for reconstructing and selecting (left) electrons and (right) muons, measured with a $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ data sample by fitting the Z lineshape plus a background model.

respect to the primary vertex of the event) identified by the PF reconstruction within $\Delta R = 0.3$ around the candidate photon direction, divided by the photon transverse momentum. Isolated photons must satisfy $R_{\text{Iso}}^\gamma < 1$.

If more than one FSR candidate is selected for each Z candidate, the best is chosen as the one with the highest p_T^γ , if there is at least one with $p_T^\gamma > 4$ GeV, otherwise as the one closest to any of the individual daughter leptons of the Z candidate. These criteria are chosen to maximize the efficiency of the selection for photon emissions collinear with the lepton direction, while keeping the contribution from background or pileup interactions sufficiently low.

7 Jet reconstruction and identification

In the analysis the presence of jets is used as an indication of vector boson fusion (VBF) or associated production with a weak boson, VH, with $V = W$ or Z , where the V decays hadronically. Jets are reconstructed using the anti- k_T clustering algorithm [96] with distance parameter $D = 0.5$, as implemented in the FASTJET package [95, 99], applied to the PF candidates of the event. Jet energy corrections are applied as a function of the jet p_T^{jet} and η^{jet} [100]. An offset correction is applied to subtract the energy contribution not associated with the high- p_T scattering, such as electronic noise and pileup, based on the jet-area method [93, 94, 100]. Jets are only considered if they have $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 30$ GeV and $|\eta^{\text{jet}}| < 4.7$. In addition, they are required to be separated from the lepton candidates and identified FSR photons by $\Delta R > 0.5$.

Within the tracker acceptance, the jets are reconstructed with the constraint that the charged particles are compatible with the primary vertex. In addition, in the entire acceptance, a multivariate discriminator is used to separate jets arising from the primary interaction from those reconstructed from energy deposits associated with pileup interactions, especially due to neutral particles not associated with the primary vertex of the event. The discrimination is based on the differences in the jet shapes, the relative multiplicity of charged and neutral components, and the fraction of transverse momentum carried by the hardest components [101].

8 Selection and categorization of four-lepton candidates

The event selection is designed to give a set of signal candidates in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ final state in three mutually exclusive sub-channels: $4e$, $2e2\mu$ and 4μ . Four well-identified and isolated leptons are required to originate from the primary vertex to suppress the Z +jet and $t\bar{t}$ backgrounds.

A Z candidate formed with a pair of leptons of the same flavor and opposite-charge ($\ell^+\ell^-$) is required. When forming the Z boson candidates, FSR photon candidates which make the lepton pair mass closer to the nominal Z -boson mass are considered, with a maximum mass $m_{\ell\ell\gamma}$ of 100 GeV. With the photon selection requirements described in Section 6, about 1.5%, 4.6% and 9% of the simulated $H \rightarrow 4e$, $H \rightarrow 2e2\mu$ and $H \rightarrow 4\mu$ decays, respectively, are affected by the photon recovery procedure. As the photon emission is most often collinear with one of the leptons, measured electron energies, by construction, include the energy of a large fraction of the emitted photons in the associated ECAL supercluster, while measured muon momenta do not include the emitted photons. Therefore, without photon recovery, FSR is expected to degrade the four-lepton mass resolution for Higgs boson candidates, especially in the 4μ and in the $2e2\mu$ final states and, to a lesser extent, in the $4e$ final state. The performance of the FSR recovery algorithm is estimated using simulated samples of $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$, and the rate is verified with inclusive Z and ZZ data events. Genuine FSR photons within the acceptance of the FSR selection are selected with an efficiency of $\approx 50\%$ and with a mean purity of 80%. The FSR photons are selected in 5% of inclusive Z events with muon pairs, and 0.5% of single- Z events with electron pairs. A gain of $\approx 3\%$ (2%, 1%) in efficiency is expected for the selection of $H \rightarrow 4\mu$ ($2e2\mu$, $4e$) events in this analysis. The momentum of selected FSR photons is added to the corresponding lepton momentum for the computation of every 4ℓ kinematic variable. From hereafter ℓ denotes a $\ell + \gamma$, in case of a recovered FSR photon.

Among all the possible opposite-charge lepton pairs in the event, the one with an invariant mass closest to the nominal Z -boson mass is denoted Z_1 and retained if its mass, m_{Z_1} , satisfies $40 < m_{Z_1} < 120$ GeV. Then, all remaining leptons are considered and a second $\ell^+\ell^-$ pair is required (Z_2), with the mass denoted m_{Z_2} . If more than one Z_2 candidate is selected, the ambiguity is resolved by choosing the pair of leptons with the highest scalar sum of p_T . Simulation studies demonstrate that this algorithm selects the true Z_2 in the majority of cases without sculpting the shape of the ZZ background. The chosen Z_2 is required to satisfy $12 < m_{Z_2} < 120$ GeV. For the mass range of $m_H < 180$ GeV, at least one of the Z candidates is off-shell. The lower bound for m_{Z_2} provides an optimal sensitivity for a Higgs boson mass hypothesis in the range $110 < m_H < 160$ GeV.

Among the four selected leptons forming the Z_1 and the Z_2 , at least one lepton is required to have $p_T^\ell > 20$ GeV and another one is required to have $p_T^\ell > 10$ GeV. These p_T^ℓ thresholds ensure that the selected events have leptons on the efficiency plateau of the trigger. To further remove events with leptons originating from hadron decays produced by jet fragmentation or from the decay of low-mass hadron resonances, it is required that any opposite-charge pair of leptons chosen among the four selected leptons (irrespective of flavor) satisfies $m_{\ell^+\ell^-} > 4$ GeV. The phase space for the search of the SM Higgs boson is defined by restricting the measured mass range to $m_{4\ell} > 100$ GeV.

The overall signal detection efficiencies, including geometrical acceptance, for the $4e$, $2e2\mu$, and 4μ channels increase as a function of m_H rapidly up to approximately $2m_Z$, where both the Z bosons are on shell, and then flattens. The residual rise for $m_H > 300$ GeV is mostly due to the increased acceptance. The efficiency versus m_H is shown in Fig. 5 for the gluon fusion Higgs boson production mode and it is very similar for other production modes. The signal events

are generated with $|\eta^\ell| < 5$ and invariant mass of the dileptons from both the Z_1 and the Z_2 boson decays, $m_{\ell^+\ell^-} > 1$ GeV. The efficiency within the geometrical acceptance is $\approx 30\%$ (58%), 43% (71%), and 62% (87%) for the three channels, respectively, for $m_H = 126$ (200) GeV.

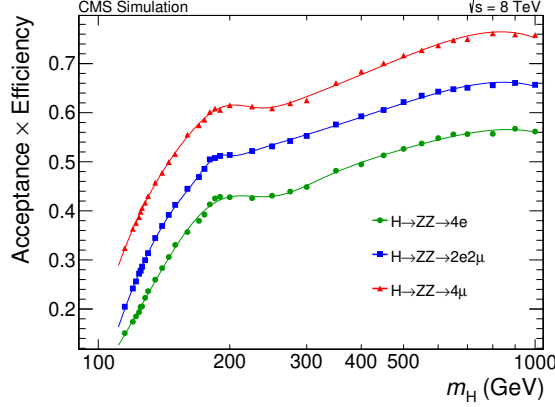


Figure 5: Geometrical acceptance times selection efficiency for the SM Higgs boson signal as a function of m_H in the three final states for gluon fusion production. Points represent efficiency estimated from full CMS simulation; lines represent a smooth polynomial curve interpolating the points, used in the analysis.

For a Higgs boson with $m_H = 126$ GeV, the mass Gaussian resolution estimated from simulated signal samples is about 2.0, 1.6, 1.2 GeV for 4e, 2e2 μ , and 4 μ , respectively. The full RMS of the four-lepton mass distribution, including the asymmetric tails, is estimated to be 2.9, 2.3, 1.7 GeV for the three channels, respectively. For a Higgs boson with $m_H = 600$ GeV, in which the natural width of the resonance contributes most, the mass resolution is about 75 GeV.

While in the dominant gluon fusion mechanism the Higgs boson is produced only in association with jets from initial-state radiation of the quarks, in the VBF production the two vector bosons are radiated from the initial-state quarks to produce the Higgs boson. The cross section for VBF production is about one order of magnitude smaller than that for the gluon fusion process. In the vector boson scattering process, the two initial state quarks deviate at a polar angle large enough to appear as additional jets in the event. These two jets, being remnants of the incoming proton beams, have typically a large separation in η and high momentum. These characteristics are used to distinguish gluon fusion from VBF Higgs boson production in the analysis. Jets in the final state also come from $t\bar{t}H$ and VH production, where the V decays hadronically.

In order to improve the sensitivity to the Higgs boson production mechanisms, the event sample is split into two categories based on the jet multiplicity, where a jet is defined as in Section 7. These categories are defined as 0/1-jet category, containing events with fewer than two jets, and dijet category, containing events with at least two jets. In the 0/1-jet category the transverse momentum of the four-lepton system ($p_T^{4\ell}$) is used to distinguish VBF production and associated production with a weak boson, VH , from gluon fusion. In the dijet category, a linear discriminant (\mathcal{D}_{jet}) is formed combining two VBF sensitive variables, the absolute difference in pseudorapidity ($|\Delta\eta_{jj}|$) and the invariant mass of the two leading jets (m_{jj}). The discriminant maximizes the separation between vector-boson and gluon fusion processes. In the 0/1-jet (dijet) category, about 5% (20%) of the signal events are expected to come from the VBF production mechanism, as estimated from simulation. The expected signal yield, split by category and by production mode, is reported in Table 5.

8.1 Per-event mass uncertainties

For the Higgs boson mass and width measurement, the uncertainty in the four-lepton mass, which can be estimated on a per-event basis, is relevant because it varies considerably over the small number of selected events.

Uncertainties in the measured lepton momentum arise from imperfect calibration of the ECAL supercluster and uncertainty in the GSF track fit due to possible high bremsstrahlung emissions in the case of the electrons, and from the uncertainty in the muon track fit due to the multiple scattering of the muons in the material of the inner tracker. These uncertainties depend on and are evaluated from the lepton's direction and transverse momentum, as well as from possible mismeasurements specific to each lepton. In the case of electrons, the momentum uncertainties are assessed from the combination of the quality of the ECAL supercluster and the GSF track fit, through a similar multivariate regression as the one used to refine the estimate of the electron momentum, described in Section 5.1. In the case of muons, the momentum uncertainties are assessed from the properties of hits in the tracker and in the muon system, and the quality of the muon candidate fit. If FSR photons are identified and associated with the event, their uncertainty, assessed by the quality of the ECAL clusters, is also accounted for the event mass uncertainty.

The momentum uncertainties for each of the four leptons in an event are then propagated into a relative uncertainty $\mathcal{D}_m \equiv \sigma_{m_{4\ell}}/m_{4\ell}$ in the four-lepton mass. The per-event mass uncertainty is given as the sum in quadrature of the individual mass uncertainty contributions from each lepton and any identified FSR photon candidate. A calibration of the per-lepton uncertainties is derived using large $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$, $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ and $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ event samples, both in data (Table 1) and in simulation. The lineshape of these resonances is modeled, as for the SM Higgs boson, with a BW convolved with a double-sided CB function, where the resolution is estimated as $\lambda \times \sigma(m_{4\ell})$. In this procedure, $\sigma(m_{4\ell})$ is fixed to the value computed using the uncertainties in the individual momenta of the leptons and λ , defined as the calibration constant, is a floating parameter. The latter is derived for electrons and muons in several bins of the average p_T^ℓ and η^ℓ of the lepton: $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ is used for muons with $p_T^\mu < 20$ GeV, while, for lack of sufficiently large sample of $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^-$, $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ events are used in the entire p_T^e range. The value of λ obtained from the fit is approximately 1.2 for electrons and 1.1 for muons, in the entire kinematic range of the leptons used in this analysis.

As a closure test, the $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ events are grouped into subsets based on their per-event predicted dilepton mass resolution and fit to the Z lineshape in each subset as described above. A systematic uncertainty of $\pm 20\%$ is assigned to the per-event mass uncertainty for both electrons and muons based on the agreement between per-event computed and observed mass resolutions as shown in Fig. 6 (left). In Fig. 6 (right), the comparison between data and simulation of the \mathcal{D}_m observable, in the $Z \rightarrow 4\ell$ mass region is shown.

9 Background estimation

The dominant background contribution in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ search is irreducible and is due to direct ZZ production via $q\bar{q}$ annihilation and gluon fusion. The remaining subleading contributions arise from reducible multilepton sources, $Z + \text{jets}$, $t\bar{t}$, and $WZ + \text{jets}$.

9.1 Irreducible background

The expected yield and shape of the ZZ background is evaluated by simulation. The NLO cross section for $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$ production and the LO cross section for $gg \rightarrow ZZ$ production are

calculated with MCFM [102–104]. The relative contribution of LO $gg \rightarrow ZZ$ with respect to NLO $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$ is about 2% at four-lepton mass $m_{4\ell} = 126$ GeV and about 6% at 1 TeV. The expected contribution of this source to the total background, in the region $100 < m_{4\ell} < 1000$ ($121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$) GeV, is approximately 91%, 94%, and 97% (58%, 71%, and 86%) in the $4e$, $2e2\mu$, and 4μ channels, respectively. The shape uncertainties arising from imperfect simulation of the p_T^ℓ and η^ℓ dependence of the efficiency and other experimental sources are much smaller than the normalization systematics and therefore are neglected.

The irreducible four-lepton background arising from double-parton interactions (DPI), Z + Drell–Yan (DY), is evaluated using PYTHIA 6.4 with the overall cross section calculated as $\sigma_{\text{DPI}} = \sigma_Z \cdot \sigma_{\text{DY}} / \sigma_{\text{pheno}}$, where the phenomenological effective cross section, measured at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV, is $\sigma_{\text{pheno}} = 15$ mb [105] and the cross sections σ_Z and σ_{DY} are taken from simulation. The DPI Z+DY background is much smaller than normalization uncertainties on either $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$, $gg \rightarrow ZZ$ or reducible background; hence, the DPI Z+DY background is neglected in the analysis.

9.2 Reducible background

Two independent methods, using dedicated control regions in data, are considered to estimate the reducible background, denoted as Z+X in the following paragraphs because it is dominated by the Z + jets process. The control regions are defined by a dilepton pair satisfying all the requirements of a Z_1 candidate and two additional leptons, opposite-sign (OS), or same-sign (SS), satisfying certain relaxed identification requirements when compared to those used in the analysis. The invariant mass of the additional dilepton pair is required to be larger than 12 GeV, in order to be consistent with the criteria imposed on the Z_2 candidate in the signal selection.

In both methods, the extrapolation from the control region to the signal region is performed using the lepton misidentification probability, $f(\ell, p_T^\ell, |\eta^\ell|)$, which is defined as the fraction of non-signal leptons identified with the analysis selection criteria, estimated in an enriched sam-

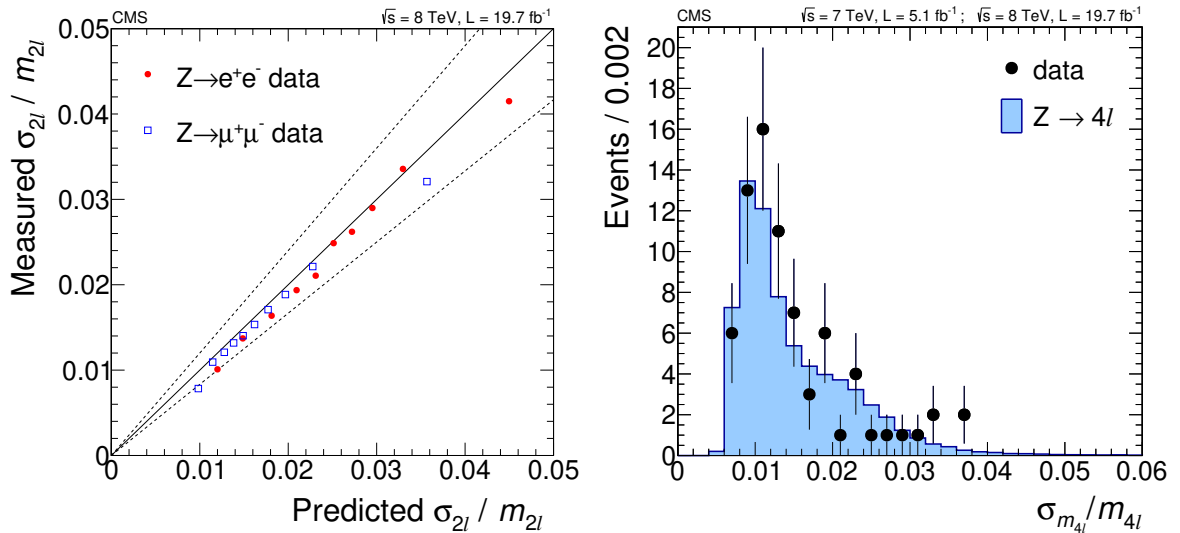


Figure 6: (left) Measured versus predicted relative mass uncertainties for $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ and $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ events in data. The dashed lines represent the $\pm 20\%$ envelope, used as systematic uncertainty on the resolution. (right) Relative mass uncertainty distribution for data and simulation in the $Z \rightarrow 4\ell$ mass region of $80 < m_{4\ell} < 100$ GeV.

ple of non-genuine electrons and muons. This sample is composed of $Z_1 + 1\ell_{\text{loose}}$ events in data consisting of a pair of leptons, both passing the selection requirements used in the analysis, and exactly one additional lepton passing the relaxed selection. The mass of the Z_1 candidate is required to satisfy $|m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| < 10 \text{ GeV}$ for the OS leptons method. Such a stringent requirement suppresses from the $f(\ell, p_T^\ell, |\eta^\ell|)$ calculation the contribution of events with FSR where the photon converts and one of the conversion products is not reconstructed. For the SS leptons method, a requirement of $|m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| < 40 \text{ GeV}$ is imposed. In order to suppress the contribution from WZ and $t\bar{t}$ processes, which have a third lepton, the missing transverse energy (E_T) is required to be less than 25 GeV. The E_T is defined as the modulus of the vector sum of the transverse momenta of all reconstructed PF candidates (charged or neutral) in the event. The invariant mass of the loose lepton and the opposite-sign lepton from the Z_1 candidate, if they have the same flavor, is required to be greater than 4 GeV to reject contributions from low-mass resonances, such as J/ψ . As a result of these requirements, the control sample largely consists of events with a Z boson and a misidentified additional lepton. Hence, the fraction of these events, in which the additional lepton passes the analysis identification and isolation requirements, gives the $f(\ell, p_T^\ell, |\eta^\ell|)$ that ranges from 1–15% (5–10%) depending on the p_T^ℓ and η^ℓ of the electron (muon).

9.2.1 Method using opposite-sign (OS) leptons

In this method, the control region consists of events with a Z_1 candidate and two additional leptons with the same flavor and opposite charge. Two categories of events are considered in this method.

The category 2P2F is composed of events in which two leptons pass (P) the selection requirements of the analysis and two fail (F), but pass the loose selection. It is used to estimate the contribution from backgrounds that intrinsically have only two prompt leptons ($Z + \text{jets}$, $t\bar{t}$). To estimate the contribution of these background processes in the signal region, each 2P2F event i is weighted by a factor $\frac{f_3^i}{1-f_3^i} \frac{f_4^i}{1-f_4^i}$, where f_3^i and f_4^i are the $f(\ell, p_T^\ell, |\eta^\ell|)$ for the third and fourth lepton. Analogously, the 3P1F category consists of events where exactly one of the two additional leptons passes the analysis selection. It is used to estimate the contribution from backgrounds with three prompt leptons and one misidentified lepton ($WZ + \text{jets}$ and $Z\gamma + \text{jets}$ with the photon converting to e^+e^- pair). Each event j in the 3P1F control region is weighted by a factor $\frac{f_a^j}{1-f_a^j}$, where f_a^j is the $f(\ell, p_T^\ell, |\eta^\ell|)$ for the third or fourth lepton to fail the analysis selection. This control region has also contributions from ZZ events where one of the four prompt leptons fails the analysis selection and from the processes with only two prompt leptons (2P2F-type) where one of the two non-prompt leptons passes the selection requirements. The contribution from ZZ events, n_{3P1F}^{ZZ} is estimated from simulation and the background estimate is reduced by a factor of $1 - n_{3P1F}^{ZZ}/N_{3P1F}$, where N_{3P1F} is the number of events of the 3P1F control region. The contribution from 2P2F-type processes in the 3P1F region is estimated as $\sum_i (\frac{f_3^i}{1-f_3^i} + \frac{f_4^i}{1-f_4^i})$. It contributes to the final weighted sum of the 3P1F events with the component $\sum_i (2 \frac{f_3^i}{1-f_3^i} \frac{f_4^i}{1-f_4^i})$ which has to be subtracted from the background estimate. Therefore, in this method, the expected yield for the reducible background in the signal region, $N_{\text{SR}}^{\text{reducible}}$, becomes:

$$N_{\text{SR}}^{\text{reducible}} = \left(1 - \frac{n_{3P1F}^{ZZ}}{N_{3P1F}}\right) \sum_j \frac{f_a^j}{1-f_a^j} - \sum_i \frac{f_3^i}{1-f_3^i} \frac{f_4^i}{1-f_4^i}. \quad (2)$$

9.2.2 Method using same-sign (SS) leptons

In this method, the control region consists of events with a Z_1 candidate and two additional leptons with the same flavor and same charge. The $f(\ell, p_T^\ell, |\eta^\ell|)$ is measured using a $Z_1 + 1\ell_{\text{loose}}$ sample, which is similar to that used for the OS control region, but with the invariant mass of the Z_1 candidate, $|m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| < 40 \text{ GeV}$, consistent with the requirement on the Z_1 candidate used in the analysis. Here, the contribution from FSR photons to the electron misidentification probability is much larger and needs to be taken into account. This is done by exploiting the observed linear dependence of the $f(e, p_T^e, |\eta^e|)$ on the fraction of loose electrons with tracks having one missing hit in the pixel detector, $r_{\text{miss}}(p_T^e, |\eta^e|)$, which is indicative of a possible conversion. The fraction $r_{\text{miss}}(p_T^e, |\eta^e|)$ is estimated using samples with different FSR contributions obtained by varying the requirement on $|m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z|$ and $|m_{\ell\ell_{\text{loose}}} - m_Z|$. The corrected $\tilde{f}(e, p_T^e, |\eta^e|)$ is then computed using the value $r_{\text{miss}}(p_T^e, |\eta^e|)$ measured in the control sample where the method is applied.

The expected number of reducible background events in the signal region is obtained as:

$$N_{\text{SR}}^{\text{reducible}} = r_{\text{OS/SS}} \cdot \sum_i^{N_{2\text{P2L}_{\text{SS}}}} \tilde{f}_3^i \cdot \tilde{f}_4^i, \quad (3)$$

where $N_{2\text{P2L}_{\text{SS}}}$ is the number of observed events in the region 2P2L_{SS} , in which both the additional leptons fulfill the loose selection requirements for leptons, having same flavor and charge. The ratio $r_{\text{OS/SS}}$ between the number of events in the 2P2L_{OS} and 2P2L_{SS} control regions is obtained from simulation.

9.2.3 Combination of the two methods

The predicted yields of the Z+X background from the two methods are in agreement within their statistical uncertainties. The dominant sources of these uncertainties are the limited number of events in 3P1F , 2P2F , and 2P2L_{SS} control regions as well as in the region where the correction factor for $\tilde{f}(e, p_T^e, |\eta^e|)$ is computed. Since they are mutually independent, results of the two methods are combined.

The shape of the $m_{4\ell}$ distribution for the reducible background is obtained from the OS method by fitting the $m_{4\ell}$ distributions of 2P2F and 3P1F events separately with empirical functional forms built from Landau [106] and exponential distributions. The systematic uncertainty on the $m_{4\ell}$ shape is determined by the envelope that covers alternative functional forms or alternative binning for the fit used to determine its parameters.

The total systematic uncertainties assigned to the Z+X background estimate take into account the uncertainty in the $m_{4\ell}$ shape. They also account for the difference in the composition of the $Z_1 + 1\ell_{\text{loose}}$ sample used to compute $f(\ell, p_T^\ell, |\eta^\ell|)$ and the control regions in the two methods used to estimate the Z+X background, in particular the contribution of the heavy flavor jets and photon conversions. The systematic uncertainty is estimated to be 20%, 25%, and 40% for the $4e$, $2e2\mu$, and 4μ decay channels, respectively. The two methods have been further validated using events that pass the analysis selection with the exception that the Z_2 candidate is formed out of a lepton pair with the wrong combination of flavors or charges (control region $Z_1 + e^\pm e^\pm / e^\pm \mu^\mp / \mu^\pm \mu^\pm$). The predicted contribution of the reducible background in this control region is in agreement with the observed number of events within the uncertainties. Figure 7 (left) shows the validation of the OS method.

The prediction for the Z+X background yields with combined statistical and systematic un-

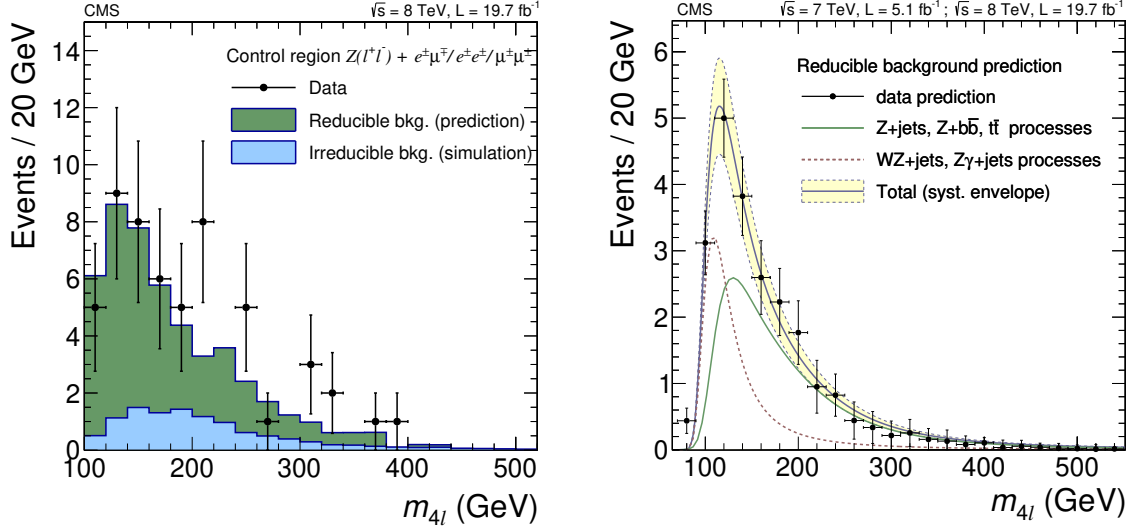


Figure 7: (left) Validation of the method using the SS control sample. The observed $m_{4\ell}$ distribution (black dots), prediction of the reducible background (dark green area), and expected contributions from ZZ (light blue area) are shown. (right) Prediction for the reducible background in all three channels together (black dots) fitted using an empirical shape (blue curve) with indicated total uncertainty (yellow band). The contributions from the 2P2F-like (solid green) and 3P1F-like (dashed red) processes are fitted separately.

certainties is given in Section 11 and also shown in Fig. 7 (right). The expected yield of the Z+X background in the signal region from the 2P2F-like and 3P1F-like sources are estimated separately. The weighted events of the two control regions are also fitted independently and then added together to give the total Z+X $m_{4\ell}$ probability density function used in the fit. The relative contribution of the reducible background to the total background in the region $100 < m_{4\ell} < 1000$ ($121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$) GeV depends on the final state, being approximately 9% (42%), 6% (28%), and 3% (14%) in the $4e$, $2e2\mu$, and 4μ channels, respectively. The estimated yields of this background are reported in Section 11.

10 Kinematic discriminants

The four-lepton decay mode has the advantage that the kinematics of the Higgs boson and its decay products are all visible in the detector, providing many independent observables that can be used for different purposes. First, in addition to their invariant mass, the angular distributions of the four leptons and the dilepton pairs invariant masses can be used to further discriminate signal from background and thus increase the signal sensitivity and reduce the statistical uncertainty in measurements, including cross section, mass, and width of the resonance. Second, this extra information on angular correlations can be used to experimentally establish the consistency of the spin and parity quantum numbers with respect to the SM. This section describes how the full kinematic information from the production and decay can be encoded in a kinematic discriminant optimized for the separation of two processes, be it signal from background or between different signal hypotheses.

The kinematic properties of the SM Higgs boson or any non-SM exotic boson decay to the four-lepton final state has been extensively studied in Refs. [42–44, 107–120]. Five angles $\vec{\Omega} \equiv (\theta^*, \Phi_1, \theta_1, \theta_2, \Phi)$ defined in Fig. 8 [42, 121] and the invariant masses of the lepton pairs, m_{Z_1} and

m_{Z_2} , fully describe the kinematic configuration of a four-lepton system in its center-of-mass frame, up to an arbitrary rotation around the beam axis. These observables provide significant discriminating power between signal and background, as well as between alternative signal models. A matrix element likelihood approach is used to construct kinematic discriminants related to the decay observables [20, 32].

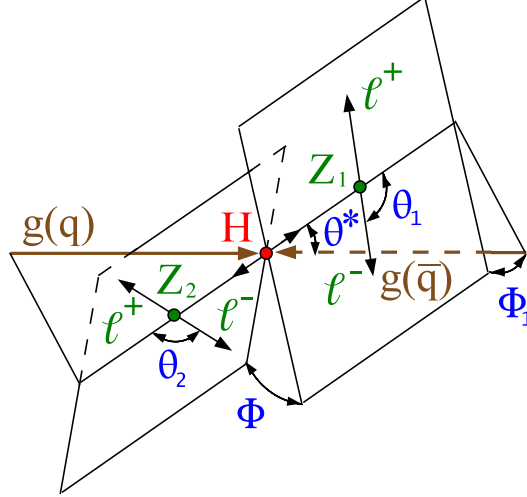


Figure 8: Illustration of the production and decay of a particle H , $gg(q\bar{q}) \rightarrow H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$, with the two production angles θ^* and Φ_1 shown in the H rest frame and three decay angles θ_1 , θ_2 , and Φ shown in the Z_1 , Z_2 , and H rest frames, respectively.

In addition to the four-lepton center-of-mass frame observables, the four-lepton transverse momentum and pseudorapidity are needed to completely define the system in the lab frame. The transverse momentum of the four-lepton system is used in the analysis as an independent observable because it is sensitive to the production mechanism of the Higgs boson, but it is not used in the spin-parity analysis. The four-lepton rapidity is not used because the discrimination power of this observable for events within the experimental acceptance is limited.

Kinematic discriminants are defined based on the event probabilities depending on the background (\mathcal{P}_{bkg}) or signal spin-parity (J^P) hypotheses under consideration (\mathcal{P}_{J^P}):

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}} = \mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega} | m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{mass}}(m_{4\ell}), \quad (4)$$

$$\mathcal{P}_{J^P} = \mathcal{P}_{J^P}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega} | m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}_{\text{sig}}^{\text{mass}}(m_{4\ell} | m_H), \quad (5)$$

where \mathcal{P}^{kin} is the probability distribution of angular and mass observables ($\vec{\Omega}, m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}$) computed from the LO matrix element squared, and $\mathcal{P}^{\text{mass}}$ is the probability distribution of $m_{4\ell}$ and is calculated using the parameterization described in Section 12.1. Matrix elements for signal are calculated with the assumption that $m_H = m_{4\ell}$. The probability distributions for spin-zero resonances are independent of an assumed production mechanism. Only the dominant $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$ background is considered in the probability parameterization.

For the alternative signal hypotheses, nine models have been tested, following the notations from Refs. [42, 43]. The most general decay amplitude for a spin-zero boson decaying to two vector bosons can be defined as:

$$A(H \rightarrow ZZ) = v^{-1} \left(a_1 m_Z^2 \epsilon_1^* \epsilon_2^* + a_2 f_{\mu\nu}^{*(1)} f^{*(2),\mu\nu} + a_3 f_{\mu\nu}^{*(1)} \tilde{f}^{*(2),\mu\nu} \right), \quad (6)$$

where $f^{(i),\mu\nu} = \epsilon_i^\mu q_i^\nu - \epsilon_i^\nu q_i^\mu$ is the field strength tensor of a gauge boson with momentum q_i and polarization vector ϵ_i , $\tilde{f}_{\mu\nu}^{(i)} = 1/2\epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}f^{(i),\alpha\beta} = \epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\epsilon_i^\alpha q_i^\beta$ is the conjugate field strength tensor, f^* denotes the complex conjugate field strength tensor, and v is the vacuum expectation value of the SM Higgs field. The $\epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}$ is the Levi-Civita completely antisymmetric tensor. The a_i coefficients generally depend on q_i^2 . In this analysis, we consider the lowest dimension operators in the effective Lagrangian corresponding to each of the three unique Lorentz structures, therefore taking a_i to be constant for the relevant range $q_i^2 = m_{Z_i}^2 < m_H^2$. The SM Higgs boson decay is dominated by the tree-level coupling a_1 . The 0^- model corresponds to a pseudoscalar (dominated by the a_3 coupling), while 0_h^+ is a scalar (dominated by the a_2 coupling) not participating in the electroweak symmetry breaking, where h refers to higher-dimensional operators in Eq. (6) with respect to the SM Higgs boson. The spin-zero signal models are simulated for the gluon fusion production process and their kinematics in the boson center-of-mass frame is independent of the production mechanism.

The 1^- and 1^+ hypotheses represent a vector and a pseudovector decaying to two Z bosons. The spin-one resonance models are simulated via the quark-antiquark production mechanism, as the gluon fusion production of such resonances is expected to be strongly suppressed. The spin-one hypotheses are considered under the assumption that the resonance decaying into 4ℓ is not necessarily the same resonance observed in the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ channel [19, 20], as $J = 1$ in the latter case is prohibited by the Landau–Yang theorem [122, 123]. This also provides a test of the spin-one hypothesis in an independent way.

The spin-two model with minimal couplings, 2_m^+ , represents a massive graviton-like boson X suggested, for example, in models with warped extra dimensions (ED) [124, 125], where gluon fusion is the dominant process. For completeness, 100% quark-antiquark annihilation is also considered, which provides a projection of the spin of the resonance on the parton collision axis equal to one, instead of two, as in the case of the gluons fusion with minimal couplings. A modified minimal coupling model 2_b^+ is also considered, where the SM fields are allowed to propagate in the bulk of the ED [126], corresponding to $g_1 \ll g_5$ in the XZZ coupling for 2_m^+ model, where the g_i are the couplings in the effective Lagrangian of Ref. [43]. Finally, two spin-two models with higher-dimension operators are considered with both positive and negative parity, 2_h^+ and 2_h^- , corresponding to the g_4 and g_8 couplings. The 2_b^+ , 2_h^+ , and 2_h^- resonances are assumed to be produced in gluon fusion. The above list of the spin-two models does not exhaust all possible scenarios, nor does it cover possible mixed states. However, it does provide a representative sample of spin-two alternatives to the $J^P = 0^+$ hypothesis.

For the discrimination between the SM Higgs boson ($J^P = 0^+$) and the SM backgrounds (non-resonant ZZ and reducible backgrounds), an observable is created from the probability distributions in Eqs. (4) and (5):

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}} = \frac{\mathcal{P}_{0^+}^{\text{kin}}}{\mathcal{P}_{0^+}^{\text{kin}} + \mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}} = \left[1 + \frac{\mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega} | m_{4\ell})}{\mathcal{P}_{0^+}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega} | m_{4\ell})} \right]^{-1}. \quad (7)$$

The discriminant defined this way does not carry any discrimination power based on the four-lepton mass $m_{4\ell}$ between the signal and the background. Hence, it can be used as a second discriminating observable in addition to the $m_{4\ell}$ distribution. The \mathcal{P}_i are normalized with additional constant factors for a given value of $m_{4\ell}$, such that the ratio of probabilities is scaled by a constant factor leading to probabilities $P(\mathcal{D} > 0.5 | H) = P(\mathcal{D} < 0.5 | \text{bkg})$.

In this analysis, the SM Higgs signal is distinguished simultaneously from the background and alternative signal hypotheses. The former is separated with \mathcal{D}_{bkg} , and the latter with \mathcal{D}_{J^P}

observables constructed from the background, signal, and the probability of the alternative hypotheses defined in Eqs. (4) and (5). The \mathcal{D}_{bkg} observable extends $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ defined in Eq. (7) with the four-lepton mass probability for separation at a fixed value of the mass m_{0+} :

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}} = \left[1 + \frac{\mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega}|m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{mass}}(m_{4\ell})}{\mathcal{P}_{0+}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega}|m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}_{\text{sig}}^{\text{mass}}(m_{4\ell}|m_{0+})} \right]^{-1}. \quad (8)$$

The other observable discriminates between the SM Higgs boson and the alternative signal hypothesis:

$$\mathcal{D}_{J^P} = \left[1 + \frac{\mathcal{P}_{J^P}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega}|m_{4\ell})}{\mathcal{P}_{0+}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega}|m_{4\ell})} \right]^{-1}. \quad (9)$$

The spin-zero discriminants \mathcal{D}_{0-} and $\mathcal{D}_{0_h^+}$ are independent of any production mechanism, since in the production of a spin-zero particle the angular decay variables are independent of production mechanism. This is not the case for the spin-one and spin-two signal hypotheses. Therefore, it is desirable to test for spin-one and spin-two hypotheses in a way that does not depend on assumptions about the production mechanism. This is achieved by either averaging over the spin degrees of freedom of the produced boson or, equivalently, integrating the matrix elements squared over the production angles $\cos\theta^*$ and Φ_1 [49]. With the latter the discriminants are defined as:

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{dec}} = \left[1 + \frac{\frac{1}{4\pi} \int d\Phi_1 d\cos\theta^* \mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega}|m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{mass}}(m_{4\ell})}{\mathcal{P}_{0+}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega}|m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}_{\text{sig}}^{\text{mass}}(m_{4\ell}|m_{0+})} \right]^{-1}, \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{J^P}^{\text{dec}} = \left[1 + \frac{\frac{1}{4\pi} \int d\Phi_1 d\cos\theta^* \mathcal{P}_{J^P}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega}|m_{4\ell})}{\mathcal{P}_{0+}^{\text{kin}}(m_{Z_1}, m_{Z_2}, \vec{\Omega}|m_{4\ell})} \right]^{-1}. \quad (11)$$

The superscript “dec” indicates that these discriminants use decay-only information. The probabilities for spin-zero resonances are already independent of a production mechanism, however, their distributions, for all the J^P hypotheses, do carry some production dependence due to detector acceptance effects. Such production-dependent variations in the discriminant distribution shapes are found to be small and are treated as systematic uncertainties.

Table 2 summarizes all kinematic observables used in this analysis, for different purposes. To make an optimal use of the available information, the distribution of these observables is used without any selection in a fit.

This analysis uses the matrix element likelihood approach (MELA) framework [20, 43, 44] with the matrix elements for different signal models taken from JHUGEN [42–44] and the matrix element for the $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$ background taken from MCFM [102–104]. Within the MELA framework, an analytical parameterization of matrix elements for signal [42, 43] and background [118] was adopted in the previous analyses of CMS data with results reported in Refs. [20, 32]. The above matrix element calculations are validated against each other and also tested with the matrix element kinematic discriminant (MEKD) framework [119], based on MADGRAPH [71] and FEYNRULES [127], and with a stand-alone framework implementation of MADGRAPH. The inclusion of the lepton interference in the kinematic discriminant parameterization is a small improvement in expected separation significance of $\sim 3\%$ for spin-zero models with respect to our earlier publication of results [20, 32], as indicated by cross-checks with generator-based

Table 2: List of observables and kinematic discriminants used for signal versus background separation and studies of the properties of the observed resonance. The alternative hypotheses for $J = 0$ are independent of the production mechanism without the need of integrating out the production angles $\cos \theta^*$ and Φ_1 .

Discriminant	Note
Observables used for the signal strength measurement	
$m_{4\ell}$	Four-lepton invariant mass, main background discrimination
$\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$	Discriminate SM Higgs boson against ZZ background
\mathcal{D}_{jet}	Linear discriminant, uses jet information to identify VBF topology
$p_{\text{T}}^{4\ell}$	p_{T} of the 4ℓ system, discriminates between production mechanisms
Observables used in the spin-parity hypothesis testing	
\mathcal{D}_{bkg}	Discriminates SM Higgs boson against ZZ background, includes $m_{4\ell}$
\mathcal{D}_{1^-}	Exotic vector (1^-), VBF
\mathcal{D}_{1^+}	Exotic pseudovector (1^+), VBF
$\mathcal{D}_{2_{\text{m}}}^{\text{gg}}$	Graviton-like with minimal couplings (2_{m}^+), gluon fusion
$\mathcal{D}_{2_{\text{m}}}^{\text{qq}}$	Graviton-like with minimal couplings (2_{m}^+), VBF
$\mathcal{D}_{2_{\text{b}}}^{\text{gg}}$	Graviton-like with SM in the bulk (2_{b}^+), gluon fusion
$\mathcal{D}_{2_{\text{h}}}^{\text{gg}}$	Tensor with higher dimension operators (2_{h}^+), gluon fusion
$\mathcal{D}_{2_{\text{h}}}^{\text{gg}}$	Pseudotensor with higher dimension operators (2_{h}^-), gluon fusion
Production-independent observables used in the spin-parity hypothesis testing	
\mathcal{D}_{0^-}	Pseudoscalar (0^-), discriminates against SM Higgs boson
$\mathcal{D}_{0_{\text{h}}}^+$	Non-SM scalar with higher dimension operators (0_{h}^+)
$\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{dec}}$	Discriminates against ZZ background, includes $m_{4\ell}$, excludes $\cos \theta^*$, Φ_1
$\mathcal{D}_{1^-}^{\text{dec}}$	Exotic vector (1^-), decay-only information
$\mathcal{D}_{1^+}^{\text{dec}}$	Exotic pseudovector (1^+), decay-only information
$\mathcal{D}_{2_{\text{m}}}^{\text{dec}}$	Graviton-like with minimal couplings (2_{m}^+), decay-only information

matrix element calculations performed in the MELA and MEKD frameworks within studies reported in Ref. [32].

Detector acceptance effects approximately cancel in the probability ratios, such as those in Eq. (7). In principle, the kinematic discriminants could be modified to account for detector resolution effects. However, the matrix element approach with detector transfer functions modeling detector resolution effects showed nearly identical performance. This is not unexpected for leptons as their resolutions are of $\mathcal{O}(1\%)$ and therefore negligible.

In order to provide additional validation of the kinematic discriminants, machine-learning techniques have been used to construct discriminants. Two techniques have been used: the Bayesian neural networks (BNN) framework [128, 129] and the BDT framework [89, 130, 131]. In the BNN framework, a Bayesian procedure is used to create a posterior probability density over the space of neural network parameters. This probability density is then used to calculate

a BNN. In both frameworks, a discriminant is built using the four-lepton angular and mass variables and the output used in the same way as the $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ in the analysis described above. The BNN and BDT discriminants are trained using simulated samples to discriminate signatures for signal events from those for background events or to discriminate between different signal hypotheses. The MC samples generated for training are based on the same matrix elements for signal and background as used in the analysis and include the effects of the full detector simulation. The machine-trained discriminants are found to give similar performance to the matrix element approaches described above.

11 Yields and kinematic distributions

The signal and background yields are extracted from a fit to the invariant mass and other kinematic properties, characterizing the decay of the Higgs boson candidate and its production mechanism. The expected distributions of signal and background components are used as probability density functions in the likelihood function. Simulation and control samples from data are used to estimate the initial fit values for the signal and background yields.

The background from ZZ and $Z + X$ processes dominates after the event selection. The reconstructed four-lepton invariant mass distribution for the combined $4e$, $2e2\mu$, and 4μ channels is shown in Fig. 9 and compared with the expectations from background processes. Here, and in the other figures of this section, the normalization and shape of the ZZ background and the signal ($m_H = 126$ GeV) are obtained from simulation, while the normalization and shape of the reducible background is estimated from control samples in data, as described in Section 9.2. Error bars on data are asymmetric Poisson uncertainties that cover the 68% probability interval around the central value. A clear peak around $m_{4\ell} = 126$ GeV is seen, not expected from background processes, confirming with a larger data sample the results reported in Refs. [19–21, 32]. The observed distribution is in good agreement with the expected backgrounds and a narrow resonance compatible with the SM Higgs boson with m_H around 126 GeV. The $Z \rightarrow 4\ell$ resonance peak at $m_{4\ell} = m_Z$ is observed in agreement with simulation. The measured distribution at masses greater than $2m_Z$ is dominated by the irreducible ZZ background, where the two Z bosons are produced on shell.

The number of candidates observed in data as well as the expected yields for background and several SM Higgs boson mass hypotheses are reported in Table 3, for $m_{4\ell} > 100$ GeV. The observed event rates for the various channels are compatible with SM background expectation in the $m_{4\ell}$ region above $2m_Z$, while a deviation is observed in the lower region. Given that the excess of events observed in the 4ℓ mass spectrum is localized in a narrow region in the vicinity of 126 GeV, the events expected in a narrower range, $121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$ GeV, are reported in Table 4. Table 5 reports the breakdown of the events observed in data and the expected background yields in the same $m_{4\ell}$ region in the two analysis categories, together with the expected yield for a SM Higgs boson with $m_H = 126$ GeV, split by production mechanism. The $m_{4\ell}$ distribution for the sum of the $4e$, $2e2\mu$, and 4μ channels, in the low-mass region, is shown in Fig. 10. Figure 11 shows the reconstructed invariant masses of the Z_1 and Z_2 in a $m_{4\ell}$ range between 121.5 and 130.5 GeV.

The distributions of the $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ versus $m_{4\ell}$ are shown for the selected events and compared to the SM background expectation in Fig. 12. The distribution of events in the $(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}})$ plane agrees well with the SM expectation in the high-mass range (Fig. 12 (right)), while discrepancies in the two dimensional plane are observed in the low-mass range (Fig. 12 (left)), indicative of the presence of a signal. Figure 13 (left) shows the same data points as in Fig. 12 (left), but compared

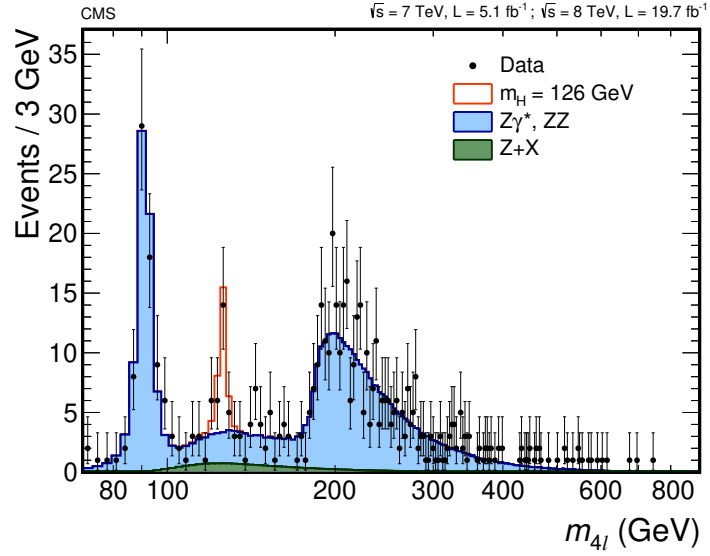


Figure 9: Distribution of the four-lepton reconstructed mass in the full mass range for the sum of the 4e, 2e2 μ and 4 μ channels. Points with error bars represent the data, shaded histograms represent the backgrounds, and the unshaded histogram the signal expectation for a mass hypothesis of $m_H = 126$ GeV. Signal and ZZ background are normalized to the SM expectation, Z + X background to the estimation from data. The expected distributions are presented as stacked histograms. No events are observed with $m_{4\ell} > 800$ GeV.

Table 3: The number of observed candidate events compared to the mean expected background and signal rates for each final state. Uncertainties include statistical and systematic sources. The results are given integrated over the full mass measurement range $m_{4\ell} > 100$ GeV and for 7 and 8 TeV data combined.

Channel	4e	2e2 μ	4 μ	4 ℓ
ZZ background	77 ± 10	191 ± 25	119 ± 15	387 ± 31
Z + X background	7.4 ± 1.5	11.5 ± 2.9	3.6 ± 1.5	22.6 ± 3.6
All backgrounds	85 ± 11	202 ± 25	123 ± 15	410 ± 31
$m_H = 500$ GeV	5.2 ± 0.6	12.2 ± 1.4	7.1 ± 0.8	24.5 ± 1.7
$m_H = 800$ GeV	0.7 ± 0.1	1.6 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.1	3.1 ± 0.2
Observed	89	247	134	470

Table 4: The number of observed candidate events compared to the mean expected background and signal rates for each final state. Uncertainties include statistical and systematic sources. The results are integrated over the mass range from 121.5 to 130.5 GeV and for 7 and 8 TeV data combined.

Channel	4e	2e2 μ	4 μ	4 ℓ
ZZ background	1.1 ± 0.1	3.2 ± 0.2	2.5 ± 0.2	6.8 ± 0.3
Z + X background	0.8 ± 0.2	1.3 ± 0.3	0.4 ± 0.2	2.6 ± 0.4
All backgrounds	1.9 ± 0.2	4.6 ± 0.4	2.9 ± 0.2	9.4 ± 0.5
$m_H = 125$ GeV	3.0 ± 0.4	7.9 ± 1.0	6.4 ± 0.7	17.3 ± 1.3
$m_H = 126$ GeV	3.4 ± 0.5	9.0 ± 1.1	7.2 ± 0.8	19.6 ± 1.5
Observed	4	13	8	25

Table 5: The number of observed candidate events compared to the mean expected background and signal rates for the sum of the three final states for each of the two analysis categories. Uncertainties include statistical and systematic sources. The results are integrated over the mass range from 121.5 to 130.5 GeV and for 7 and 8 TeV data combined. The expected signal yield for a SM Higgs boson with $m_H = 126$ GeV is reported, broken down by the production mechanism.

Category	0/1-jet	Dijet
ZZ background	6.4 ± 0.3	0.38 ± 0.02
Z + X background	2.0 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.1
All backgrounds	8.5 ± 0.5	0.9 ± 0.1
ggH	15.4 ± 1.2	1.6 ± 0.3
t \bar{t} H	—	0.08 ± 0.01
VBF	0.70 ± 0.03	0.87 ± 0.07
WH	0.28 ± 0.01	0.21 ± 0.01
ZH	0.21 ± 0.01	0.16 ± 0.01
All signal, $m_H = 126$ GeV	16.6 ± 1.3	3.0 ± 0.4
Observed	20	5

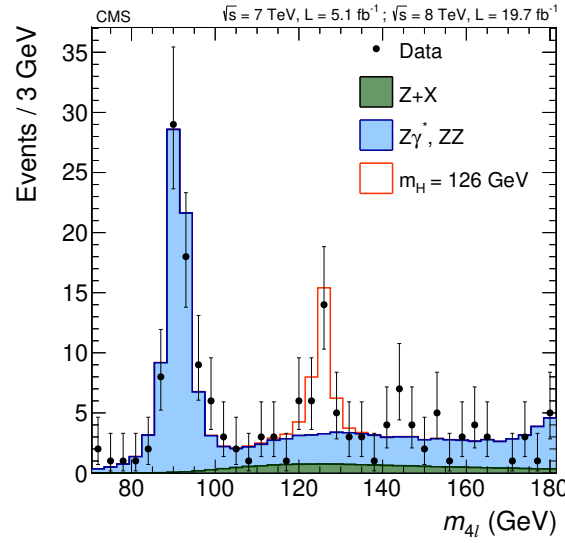


Figure 10: Distribution of the four-lepton reconstructed mass for the sum of the $4e$, $2e2\mu$, and 4μ channels for the low-mass region. Points with error bars represent the data, shaded histograms represent the backgrounds, and the unshaded histogram the signal expectation for a mass hypothesis of $m_H = 126$ GeV. Signal and ZZ background are normalized to the SM expectation, Z + X background to the estimation from data.

with the expected distribution from SM backgrounds plus the contribution of a Higgs boson with $m_H = 126$ GeV. A signal-like clustering of events is apparent at high values of $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ and for $m_{4\ell} \approx 126$ GeV. Figure 13 (right) shows the distribution of the kinematic discriminant $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ in the mass region $121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$ GeV.

The distribution of the transverse momentum and its correlation with $m_{4\ell}$, in the 0/1-jet category is presented in Fig. 14. The p_T spectrum shows good agreement with a SM Higgs boson hypothesis with $m_H = 126$ GeV in the 0/1-jet category with few events having $p_T > 60$ GeV,

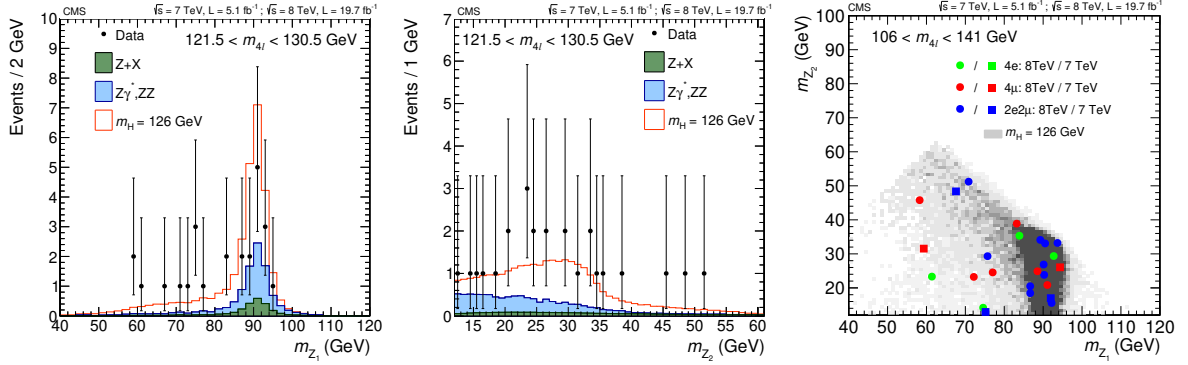


Figure 11: Distribution of (left) the Z_1 and (center) Z_2 reconstructed invariant masses, in the mass region $121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$ GeV, for the sum of the four-lepton channels. Points represent the data and shaded histograms represent the background. The signal expectation at $m_H = 126$ GeV is shown as the unshaded histogram. Signal and background histograms are stacked. Correlation between the two (right) in the mass region $106 < m_{4\ell} < 141$ GeV for the sum of the 4ℓ channels. The signal expectation at $m_H = 126$ GeV is shown as the grey scale.

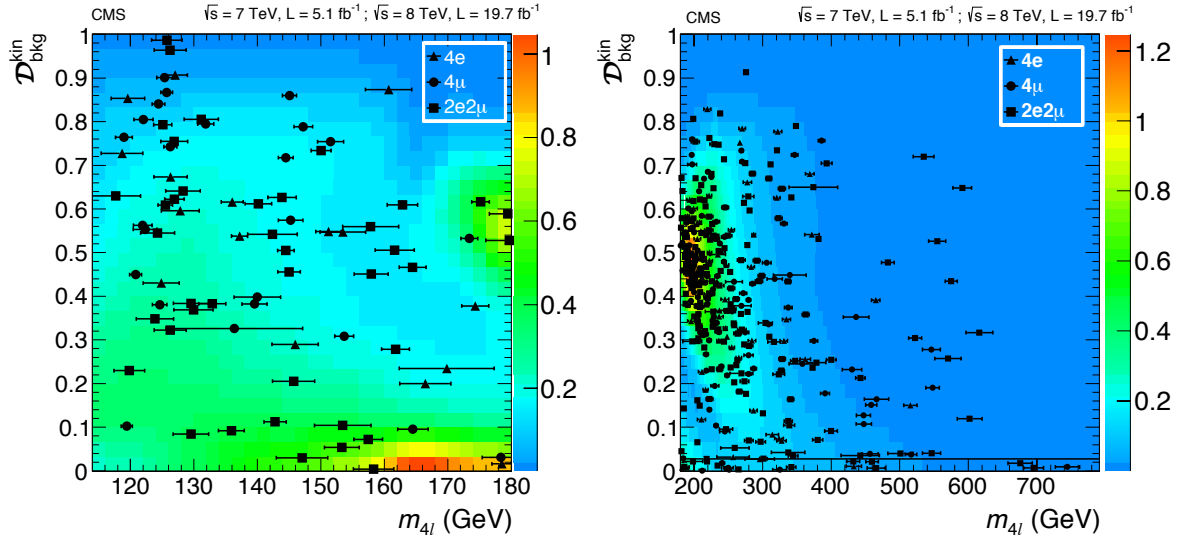


Figure 12: Distribution of the kinematic discriminant $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ versus the four-lepton reconstructed mass $m_{4\ell}$ in the (left) low-mass and (right) high-mass regions. The color scale represents the expected relative density in linear scale (in arbitrary units) of background events. The points show the data and the measured per-event invariant mass uncertainties as horizontal bars. One $2e2\mu$ event with $m_{4\ell} \approx 220$ GeV and small $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ has huge mass uncertainty and it is displayed as the horizontal line. No events are observed for $m_{4\ell} > 800$ GeV.

where VBF and VH production is relatively more relevant. In order to compare the p_T spectrum in data with the SM Higgs boson distribution more quantitatively, a background subtraction using the $sPlot$ weighting technique [132] is performed. The event weights, related to the probability for each event to be signal-like or background-like, are computed according to the one-dimensional likelihood based on the $m_{4\ell}$ distribution, which shows a small correlation with the four-lepton $p_T^{4\ell}$. The weighted distribution has the property that it corresponds to the signal-only distribution and is normalized to the fitted signal yield. The background-

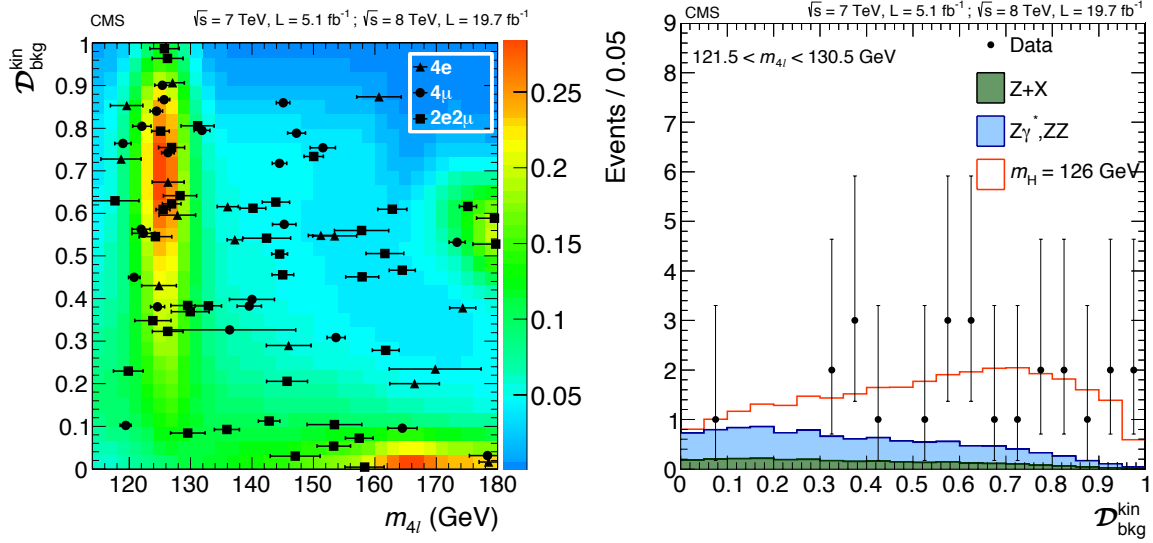


Figure 13: (left) Distribution of $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ versus $m_{4\ell}$ in the low mass range with colors shown for the expected relative density in linear scale (in arbitrary units) of background plus Higgs boson signal for $m_H = 126$ GeV. The points show the data and horizontal bars represent the measured mass uncertainties. (right) Distribution of the kinematic discriminant $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ for events in the mass region $121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$ GeV. Points with error bars represent the data, shaded histograms represent the backgrounds, and the unshaded histogram the signal expectation. Signal and background histograms are stacked.

subtracted weighted $p_T^{4\ell}$ distribution is shown in Fig. 15.

The distribution of the production mechanism discriminant and its correlation with $m_{4\ell}$ in the dijet category is presented in Fig. 16. Good agreement is found with the expectation from simulation, which predicts a negligible background, and a fraction of 42% of the signal events arising from vector-boson-induced production (VBF and VH). No events with high rank of the \mathcal{D}_{jet} ($\mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}} > 0.5$) discriminant are observed.

12 Higgs boson properties measurement

In this section the fit models used to perform the measurements in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ channel, based on the observables defined in the previous sections, are presented. Then, the systematic uncertainties effects considered in the fits for both assessing the presence of a signal and performing the measurement of different properties are described.

12.1 Multi-dimensional likelihoods

The properties of interest to be measured in this analysis, such as the signal and background yields, the mass and width of the resonance, and the spin-parity quantum numbers, are determined with an unbinned maximum likelihood fit performed to the selected events. The fit includes probability density functions for five signal components (gluon fusion, VBF, WH, ZH and $t\bar{t}H$ productions) and three background processes ($q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$, $gg \rightarrow ZZ$ and $Z + X$). The normalizations of these components and systematic uncertainties are introduced in the fit as log-normal nuisance parameters and are profiled during the minimization. The shape of the probability density functions are also varied within alternative ones, according to the ef-

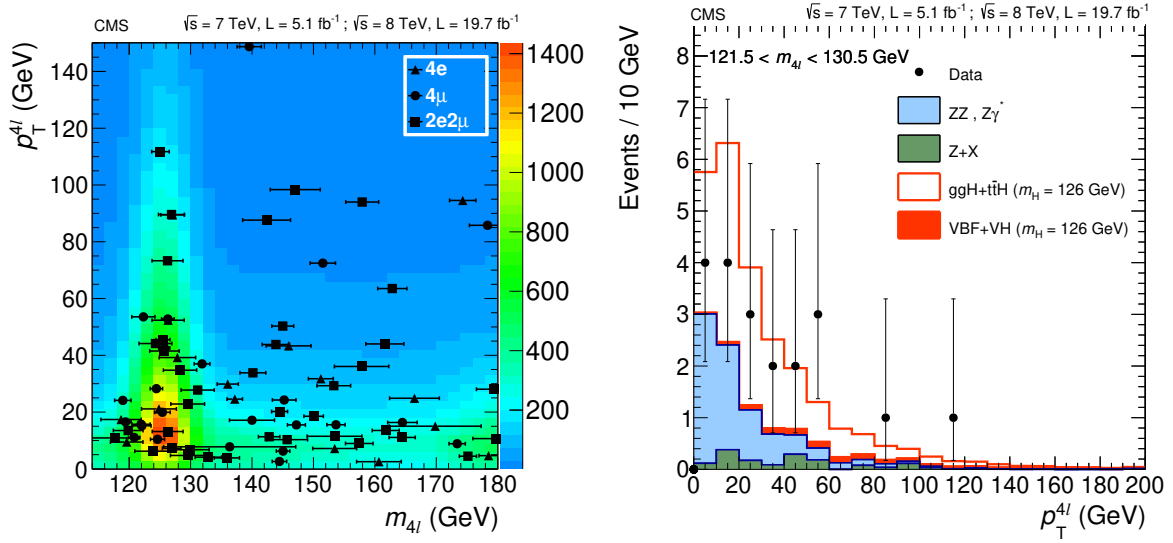


Figure 14: (left) Distribution of $p_T^{4\ell}$ versus $m_{4\ell}$ in the low-mass range 0/1-jet category with colors shown for the expected relative density in linear scale (in arbitrary units) of background plus Higgs boson signal for $m_H = 126$ GeV. No events are observed for $p_T > 150$ GeV. The points show the data and horizontal bars represent the measured mass uncertainties. (right) Distribution of $p_T^{4\ell}$ in the 0/1-jet category for events in the mass region $121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$ GeV. Points with error bars represent the data, shaded histograms represent the backgrounds, and the red histograms the signal expectation, broken down by production mechanism. Signal and background histograms are stacked.

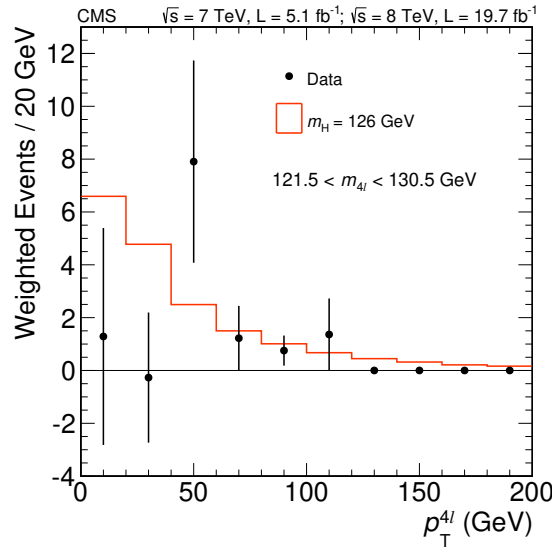


Figure 15: s Plot signal-weighted distribution of the four-lepton system $p_T^{4\ell}$ for all the selected events in the mass region $121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$ GeV. The red solid line represents the expectation from a SM Higgs boson.

fect induced by experimental or theoretical systematic uncertainties [31, 133]. Depending on the specific result to be extracted, different multi-dimensional models, using a different set of discriminating variables, are used. Each of these models is outlined below.

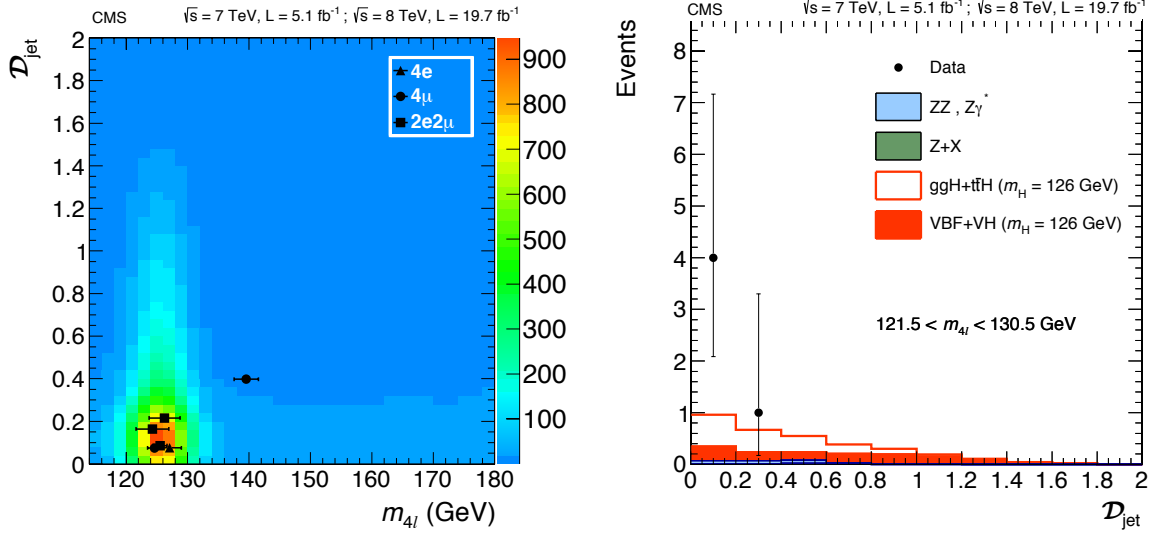


Figure 16: (left) Distribution of \mathcal{D}_{jet} versus $m_{4\ell}$ in the low-mass range dijet category with colors shown for the expected relative density in linear scale (in arbitrary units) of background plus Higgs boson signal for $m_H = 126$ GeV. The points show the data and horizontal bars represent the measured mass uncertainties. (right) Distribution of \mathcal{D}_{jet} in the dijet category for events in the mass region $121.5 < m_{4\ell} < 130.5$ GeV. Points with error bars represent the data, shaded histograms represent the backgrounds, and the red histograms the signal expectation, broken down by production mechanism. Signal and background histograms are stacked.

1. For the assessment of exclusion limits as a function of m_H , the signal significance, and the measurement of the signal strength, $\mu \equiv \sigma/\sigma_{SM}$, defined as the measured cross section times branching fraction into ZZ , relative to the expectation for the SM Higgs boson, the following 3D likelihood functions are used:

$$\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{\mu} \equiv \mathcal{L}_{3D}^{\mu, 0/1\text{-jet}}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}, p_T^{4\ell}) = \mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell}|m_H, \Gamma) \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}|m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}(p_T^{4\ell}|m_{4\ell}), \quad (12)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{\mu} \equiv \mathcal{L}_{3D}^{\mu, \text{dijet}}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}}) = \mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell}|m_H, \Gamma) \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}|m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}}|m_{4\ell}). \quad (13)$$

$$(14)$$

The likelihood \mathcal{L}_{3D}^{μ} includes the kinematic discriminant to differentiate the Higgs boson signal from ZZ background, defined in Eq. (7). As the third dimension of the fit, depending on the category, the production mode sensitive discriminant $p_T^{4\ell}$ of Eq. (12) (0/1-jet category) or \mathcal{D}_{jet} of Eq. (13) (dijet category) is used. These discriminants are defined in Section 8. The template distributions used as probability density functions for $\mathcal{P}(p_T^{4\ell}|m_{4\ell})$ and $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}}|m_{4\ell})$ are derived in the same way as for the $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}|m_{4\ell})$, which is discussed later in this section.

2. For the measurement of the mass and width of the resonance we use the following 3D likelihood:

$$\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{m, \Gamma} \equiv \mathcal{L}_{3D}^{m, \Gamma}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_m, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}) = \mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell}|m_H, \Gamma, \mathcal{D}_m) \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m|m_{4\ell}) \times \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}|m_{4\ell}). \quad (15)$$

In this case, the information about the per-event mass uncertainty, \mathcal{D}_m , based on the estimated resolution of the single leptons, as described in Section 8.1, is used. The probability density function $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m|m_H)$ is used for the simulated signal, while $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m|m_{4\ell})$ is used for

backgrounds. The parameterization of the $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m|m_H)$ and $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m|m_{4\ell})$ probability density functions is discussed later in Section 13.2.

3. For the spin-parity hypothesis tests, the following two-dimensional (2D) likelihood is used:

$$\mathcal{L}_{2D}^{JP} \equiv \mathcal{L}_{2D}^{JP}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}, \mathcal{D}_{JP}). \quad (16)$$

In this case, as described in Section 10, the four-lepton invariant mass and the separation of the Higgs boson signal from the ZZ using angular variables are condensed in a single discriminant, \mathcal{D}_{bkg} , defined in Eq. (8). The second dimension of the likelihood provides discrimination between the SM Higgs boson (0^+) and the alternative J^P hypothesis. The discriminant \mathcal{D}_{JP} is defined in Eq. (9). In the case of production-independent hypothesis tests $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{dec}}$ and $\mathcal{D}_{JP}^{\text{dec}}$ are used.

As mentioned in Section 3, the theoretical lineshape is described by the functional form of a relativistic BW function centered at m_H and with the expected natural width for the SM Higgs boson, Γ_H in the mass region $m_H < 400$ GeV. The BW function is convolved with a double-sided CB function (to account for the core and for the asymmetric non-Gaussian tails of the experimental resolution) to parameterize the reconstructed signal $m_{4\ell}$ distributions, $\mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell}|m_H, \Gamma)$. The expected four-lepton mass distributions with their parameterizations superimposed for the three final states are shown in Fig. 17 for the SM Higgs boson with $m_H = 126$ GeV. For

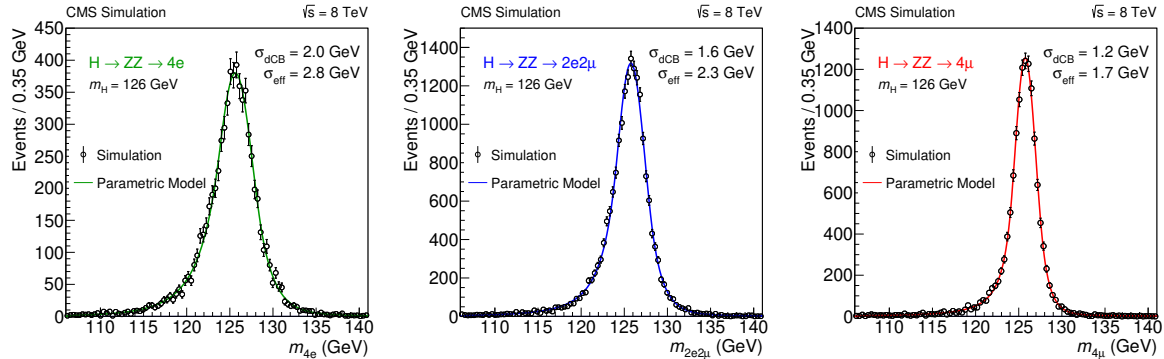


Figure 17: The $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ invariant mass distribution for $m_H = 126$ GeV in the (left) $4e$, (center) $2e2\mu$ and (right) 4μ channels. The distributions are fitted with a double-sided CB function and the fitted values of the CB width σ_{dCB} are indicated. The values of effective resolution defined as half the smallest width that contains 68.3% of the distribution are also indicated. The distributions are arbitrarily normalized.

a SM Higgs boson with mass $m_H \geq 400$ GeV, the total width is much larger than the experimental four-lepton mass resolution, as described in Section 3. Given the $m_{4\ell}$ distribution of the signal in the high-mass (HM) range, the functional form of the theoretical lineshape has to be modified as follows:

$$f_{\text{BW}}^{\text{HM}}(m_{4\ell}|m_H) \propto \frac{m_{4\ell}}{(m_{4\ell}^2 - m_H^2)^2 + m_{4\ell}^2 \cdot \Gamma_{\text{HM}}^2}, \quad (17)$$

where the Γ_{HM} parameter is left floating in the fit used to determine the signal parameterization. This modified BW function is convolved with a double-sided CB function to account for the experimental resolution as in the low-mass case. In the fit used to determine the $m_{4\ell}$ parameterization for $m_H \geq 400$ GeV, the constraint that the experimental resolution parameter, σ_{dCB} ,

is much smaller than the natural Higgs boson width is imposed. Systematics on the lineshape are incorporated by varying the signal weights for the interference effects, as a function of the generated Higgs boson mass, by $\pm 1\sigma$.

The probability distribution $\mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell})$ for the background is parameterized with empirical functions using simulation for the ZZ background and data control regions for the Z + X background.

The correlated three-dimensional likelihood \mathcal{L}_{3D}^H , defined in Eqs. (12) and (13) for 0/1-jet and dijet category, respectively, is described by the one-dimensional (1D) parametric probability distribution $\mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell})$ multiplied by a two-dimensional template distribution of $(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}})$, and a two-dimensional $(m_{4\ell}, p_T^{4\ell})$ or $(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}})$ template distribution, where $p_T^{4\ell}$ is used in the 0/1-jet category and \mathcal{D}_{jet} is used in the dijet category. The $\mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}})$, $\mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell}, p_T^{4\ell})$ and $\mathcal{P}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}})$ probabilities are normalized to one in the second dimension for each bin of $m_{4\ell}$.

For the signal and background, the 2D probability density functions $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}|m_{4\ell})$ are obtained from simulation, for each of the four-lepton final states and two center-of-mass energies. The effect of instrumental uncertainties (lepton reconstruction efficiency and momentum resolution) on the shapes of this parameterization is incorporated using alternative distributions or Gaussian nuisance parameters in the likelihood, and is small. For the reducible background, the probability density function is built using the control regions. The reducible background templates are found to be similar to the ones of the $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$ background. The difference in shapes is taken as a systematic uncertainty for the reducible background templates. The binning used for the $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}|m_{4\ell})$ is shown in Fig. 12 (left) and 12 (right) for the low- and high-mass regions, respectively.

The template distributions for $\mathcal{P}(p_T^{4\ell}|m_{4\ell})$ are derived from simulation for both the signal and SM ZZ processes and from control regions for the Z + X background. The Higgs boson p_T^H spectrum for gluon fusion production is obtained by tuning the POWHEG simulation to include contributions up to NNLO and NNLL expectations including effects from resummation [134–136]. For the p_T^H spectra for VBF production and ZZ background, POWHEG is used. Several uncertainties are taken into account for the probability density function $\mathcal{P}(p_T^{4\ell}|m_{4\ell})$: using alternative PDF sets and varying the fixed-order QCD scales produce systematic uncertainties for all the samples. For gluon fusion Higgs boson production, variations of the default scale for NNLL resummation and of the quark mass effects are also considered. For the associated production process, the LO spectrum predicted by PYTHIA is used and the difference due to NLO effects is considered as a systematic uncertainty. For the $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$ process, a systematic uncertainty is extracted comparing the p_T^Z distribution of the inclusive Z boson production in events simulated with POWHEG and in the data. The binning used for the $\mathcal{P}(p_T^{4\ell}|m_{4\ell})$ template is shown in Fig. 14 (left) for the low-mass region.

The template distributions for $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}}|m_{4\ell})$ are taken from POWHEG simulation for both the signal and SM ZZ processes and from control regions for the Z + X background. Alternative shapes are introduced to account for statistical and systematic uncertainties in these observables. In the dijet category, alternative shapes of \mathcal{D}_{jet} arise from the comparison with different generators and underlying event tunes. The change in the \mathcal{D}_{jet} shape with variations of the jet energy scale is negligible. The binning used for the $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}}|m_{4\ell})$ template is shown in Fig. 16 (left) for the low-mass region.

12.2 Systematic uncertainties

Experimental systematic uncertainties in the normalization of the signal and the irreducible background processes are evaluated from data for the trigger, which contributes 1.5%, and for the combined lepton reconstruction, identification, and isolation efficiencies, which vary from 5.5% to 11% in 4e channel, and from 2.9% to 4.3% in the 4 μ channel, depending on the considered m_H . The theoretical uncertainties on the irreducible background are computed as a function of $m_{4\ell}$, varying both the renormalization and factorization scales and the PDF set following the PDF4LHC recommendations [74, 137–140]. Depending on the four-lepton mass range, the theoretical uncertainties for $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$ and $gg \rightarrow ZZ$ are 3–10% and 25–50%, respectively.

Samples of $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$, $Y(nS) \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ events are used to set and validate the absolute momentum scale and resolution. For electrons, a p_T^e dependence of the momentum scale is observed, but it only marginally affects the four-lepton mass, and the per-electron uncertainty is propagated, accounting for the correlations, to the 4e and 2e2 μ channels. This dependence is corrected for, but the observed deviation is conservatively used as a systematic uncertainty, resulting in an effect of 0.3% and 0.1% on the mass scale of the two channels, respectively. The systematic uncertainty in the muon momentum scale translates into a 0.1% uncertainty on the 4 μ mass scale. The effect of the energy resolution uncertainties is taken into account by introducing a 20% uncertainty on the simulated width of the signal mass peak, according to the maximum deviation between data and simulation observed in the $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ events, as shown in Fig. 3.

Additional systematic uncertainties arise from the limited statistical precision in the reducible background control regions as well as from the difference in background composition between the control regions and the sample from which the lepton misidentification probability is derived. As described in Section 9, systematic uncertainties of 20%, 25%, and 40% are assigned to the normalization of the reducible background, for the 4e, 2e2 μ and 4 μ final state, respectively. All reducible background sources are derived from control regions and the comparison of data with the background expectation in the signal region is independent of the uncertainty in the LHC integrated luminosity of the data sample. The uncertainty on the luminosity measurement (2.2% at 7 TeV and 2.6% at 8 TeV) [141, 142] enters the evaluation of the ZZ background and in the calculation of the cross section limit through the normalization of the signal.

Systematic uncertainties in the Higgs boson cross section and branching fraction are taken from Refs. [56, 143]. In the 0/1-jet category, an additional systematic uncertainty in the ZZ background normalization comes from the comparison of POWHEG and MADGRAPH. In the dijet category, a 30% normalization uncertainty is taken into account for the $gg \rightarrow H + 2 \text{ jets}$ signal cross section, while 10% is retained for the VBF production cross section. Table 6 shows the summary of the systematic uncertainties in the normalization of the signal and background processes.

Additional shape uncertainties for both categories are considered, accounting for the lepton scale and resolution variations on the $m_{4\ell}$ lineshape, theoretical uncertainties on the $p_T^{4\ell}$ signal and background models, and theoretical and experimental uncertainties (such as the variations on the jet energy scale and resolution) on the \mathcal{D}_{jet} distribution.

Table 6: Effect of systematic uncertainties on the yields of signal ($m_H = 126$ GeV) and background processes for the 8 TeV dataset and 0/1-jet category. Uncertainties appearing on the same line are 100% correlated. Uncertainties for the 7 TeV dataset are similar.

Source	Signal ($m_H = 126$ GeV)				Backgrounds		
	ggH	VBF	VH	ttH	$q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$	$gg \rightarrow ZZ$	$Z + X$
$\alpha_S + \text{PDF (gg)}$	7.2%	—	—	7.8%	—	7.2%	—
$\alpha_S + \text{PDF (q}\bar{q}\text{)}$	—	2.7%	3.5%	—	3.4%	—	—
Missing higher-orders	7.5%	0.2%	0.4%, 1.6%	6.6%	2.9%	24%	—
Signal acceptance			2%		—	—	—
BR($H \rightarrow ZZ$)			2%		—	—	—
Luminosity				2.6%			—
Electron efficiency			10% (4e), 4.3% (2e2 μ)				—
Muon efficiency			4.3% (4 μ), 2.1% (2e2 μ)				—
Control region	—	—	—	—	—	—	40%

13 Results and interpretation

The results of the search for a signal consistent with a SM Higgs boson in the m_H range 110–1000 GeV are described along with the estimation of the significance of the excess observed in the low-mass region. Then, the measurement of the mass of the new boson, in the hypothesis of a narrow resonance, and limits on its width are reported. For this resonance the compatibility of the cross section measurement with the SM Higgs boson calculation is given together with constraints on the production mechanisms. Finally, the spin and parity of the boson are tested to check the compatibility with the hypothesis of a 0^+ resonance, and the measurement of the fraction of a CP-odd contribution to the decay amplitude are reported.

13.1 Signal significance and exclusion limits

The selected events are split into twelve sub-categories based on the three final states, two data-taking periods (7 and 8 TeV), and two jet categories. These events are examined for 187 hypothetical SM-like Higgs boson masses in a range between 110 and 1000 GeV, where the mass steps are optimized to account for the expected width and resolution [133]. A 3D model, $\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{\mu, 0/1\text{-jet}}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}, p_T^{4\ell})$ and $\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{\mu, \text{dijet}}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{jet}})$, defined respectively in Eqs. (12) and (13) for 0/1-jet category and for dijet category, is used. The statistical approach discussed in Ref. [133] is followed to set exclusion limits and to establish the significance of an excess. The modified frequentist construction CL_s [133, 144, 145] is adopted as the primary method for reporting limits. As a complementary method to the frequentist construction, a Bayesian approach [146] yields consistent results.

Upper limits on the ratio of the production cross section to the SM expectation are shown in Fig. 18 (left). The results presented in this section make use of asymptotic formulae from Ref. [147]. The SM-like Higgs boson is excluded by the four-lepton channels at a 95% CL in the mass ranges 114.5–119.0 GeV and 129.5–832.0 GeV, for an expected exclusion range of 115–740 GeV. The local p -values, representing the significance of a local excess relative to the background expectation, are shown for the full mass range as a function of m_H in Fig. 18 (right). The minimum of the local p -value is reached around $m_{4\ell} = 125.7$ GeV, near the mass of the new boson, confirming the result in Ref. [20], and corresponds to a local significance of 6.8σ , consistent with the expected sensitivity of 6.7σ . As a cross-check, 1D ($\mathcal{L}_{1D}^{\mu} \equiv \mathcal{L}_{1D}^{\mu}(m_{4\ell})$) and 2D ($\mathcal{L}_{2D}^{\mu} \equiv \mathcal{L}_{2D}^{\mu}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}})$) models are also studied, as shown in Figs. 18 (right) and 19, resulting

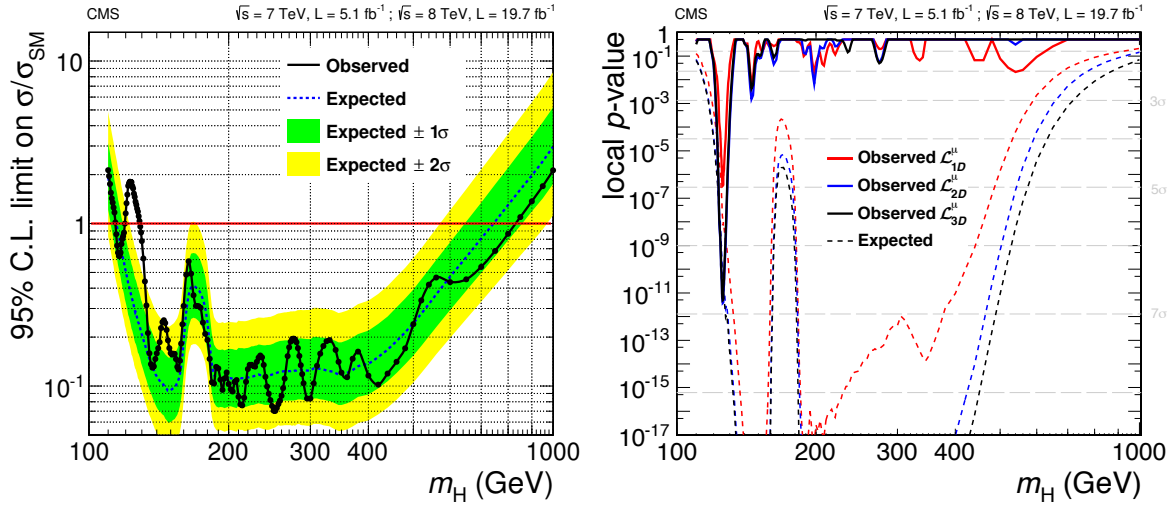


Figure 18: (left) Observed and expected 95% CL upper limit on the ratio of the production cross section to the SM expectation. The expected 1σ and 2σ ranges of expectation for the background-only model are also shown with green and yellow bands, respectively. (right) Significance of the local excess with respect to the SM background expectation as a function of the Higgs boson mass in the full mass range 110–1000 GeV. Results are shown for the 1D fit (\mathcal{L}_{1D}^μ), 2D fit (\mathcal{L}_{2D}^μ), and the reference 3D fit (\mathcal{L}_{3D}^μ).

in an observed local significance of 5.0 and 6.9σ , for an expectation of 5.6 and 6.6σ , respectively. These results are consistent with the 3D model, however with a systematically lower expected sensitivity to the signal. No other significant deviations with respect to the expectations is found in the mass range 110–1000 GeV. The second p -value minimum being reached around $m_{4\ell}=146$ GeV, with a local significance of 2.7σ . This computation does not take into account the look-elsewhere effect [148].

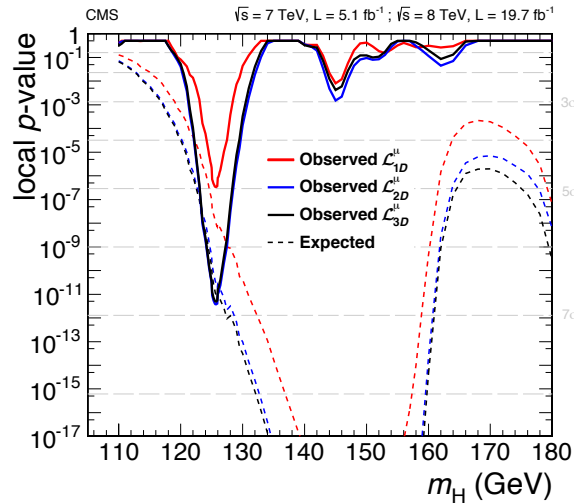


Figure 19: Significance of the local excess with respect to the SM background expectation as a function of the Higgs boson mass for the 1D fit (\mathcal{L}_{1D}^μ), 2D fit (\mathcal{L}_{2D}^μ), and the reference 3D fit (\mathcal{L}_{3D}^μ). Results are shown for the full data sample in the low-mass region only.

13.2 Mass and width

In order to measure the mass and width of the new boson precisely and to correctly assign the uncertainties in these measurements, the four-lepton mass uncertainties estimated on a per-event basis, as described in Section 8.1, are incorporated into the likelihood. This approach has the largest impact in a context of a low number of events and a wide spread of per-event uncertainties, both of which are present in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ analysis. Tests on simulation indicate that, with this approach, the uncertainties in the measured mass and the upper limit on the width of the Higgs boson are expected to improve by about 8% and 10%, respectively, with respect to using the average resolution.

The experimental resolution parameter of the double-sided CB function, used to model the $m_{4\ell}$ lineshape, is substituted with the per-event estimation of the mass uncertainty \mathcal{D}_m . The parameters describing the tail of the double-sided CB from simulation are also corrected on a per-event basis.

The likelihood used for the mass and width measurements is defined in Eq. (15). By construction, this likelihood neglects potential correlations between $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ and \mathcal{D}_m . Simulated Higgs boson and $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$ events show no evident correlations between these two observables. The probability density functions $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m | m_H)$ of the per-event uncertainty distributions for the signal are obtained from simulation. The probability density functions $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m | m_{4\ell})$ for ZZ background are obtained from simulation and are cross-checked with data in control regions dominated by the ZZ background events ($m_{4\ell} > 180 \text{ GeV}$) and $Z \rightarrow 4\ell$ events ($80 < m_{4\ell} < 100 \text{ GeV}$) [149], as shown in Fig. 6 (right). The $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m | m_{4\ell})$ for the reducible background is obtained from the control regions in the data with the same technique used to derive the $m_{4\ell}$ lineshapes. The $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m | m_{4\ell})$ is a conditional probability distribution function, where for all the channels and both signal and background components the probability density functions $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_m)$ are parameterized as a sum of a Landau [106] and a Gaussian function.

Figure 20 (left) shows the profile likelihood scan versus SM Higgs boson mass performed under the assumption that its width is much smaller than the detector resolution, for the single channels, combining 7 and 8 TeV data, and for the combination of all the channels. The Higgs boson cross section is left floating in the fit. To decompose the total mass uncertainty into statistical and systematic components, a fit with all nuisance parameters fixed at their best-fit values is performed. The mass uncertainty obtained in this way is purely statistical. The systematic uncertainties account for an effect on the mass scale of the lepton momentum scale and resolution, shape systematics in the $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}} | m_{4\ell})$ probability density functions used as signal and background models, and normalization systematics due to acceptance and efficiency uncertainty. The measured mass is $m_H = 125.6 \pm 0.4 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.2 \text{ (syst.) GeV}$.

Figure 20 (left) also shows likelihood scans separately for the $4e$, $2e2\mu$ and 4μ final states when using the 3D model $\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{m,\Gamma}$ of Eq. (15). The measurements in the three final states are statistically compatible. The best fit values for each sub-channel are also shown in Table 7. The dominant contribution to the systematic uncertainty is the limited knowledge of the lepton momentum scale.

Two more mass measurements are performed with a reduced level of information, by dropping the $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}} | m_{4\ell})$ term of the likelihood in Eq. (15), resulting in a 2D model, $\mathcal{L}_{2D}^{m,\Gamma} \equiv \mathcal{L}_{2D}^{m,\Gamma}(m_{4\ell}, \mathcal{D}_m)$, or by performing only a mass lineshape fit and assuming the average mass resolution is applicable for each channel, resulting in a 1D model, $\mathcal{L}_{1D}^{m,\Gamma} \equiv \mathcal{L}_{1D}^{m,\Gamma}(m_{4\ell})$. The measured central value is the same in all three cases, with an increasing uncertainty, due to the

reduced information available to the fit in the case of 2D or 1D models. Figure 20 (right) shows the likelihood scans for the combination of all the final states separately for the $\mathcal{L}_{1D}^{m,\Gamma}$, $\mathcal{L}_{2D}^{m,\Gamma}$, and $\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{m,\Gamma}$ models.

Table 7: Best fit values for the mass of the Higgs boson candidate, measured in the 4ℓ , $\ell = e, \mu$ final states using $\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{m,\Gamma}$ model. For the combination of all the final states $H \rightarrow 4\ell$, the separate contribution of the statistical and systematic uncertainty to the total one is given.

Channel	Measured mass (GeV)
4e	$126.2^{+1.5}_{-1.8}$
2e2 μ	$126.3^{+0.9}_{-0.7}$
4 μ	$125.1^{+0.6}_{-0.9}$
4 ℓ	$125.6 \pm 0.4 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.2 \text{ (syst.)}$

The mass distribution for the $Z \rightarrow 4\ell$ decay exhibits a pronounced resonant peak at $m_{4\ell} = m_Z$ close to the new boson ($80 < m_{4\ell} < 100 \text{ GeV}$). Hence, the $Z \rightarrow 4\ell$ peak can be used as validation of the measurement of the mass of the new boson using the same techniques as for the Higgs boson. The mass of the reconstructed Z boson in $Z \rightarrow 4\ell$ decays, with the assumption of the Particle Data Group (PDG) [146] value for the Z boson natural width, is consistent in each sub-channel. The measured value for the combination of all the $Z \rightarrow 4\ell$ final states is $m_Z = 91.1 \text{ GeV}$, compatible with the PDG value ($91.1876 \pm 0.0021 \text{ GeV}$) within the total estimated uncertainty of 0.4 GeV [146].

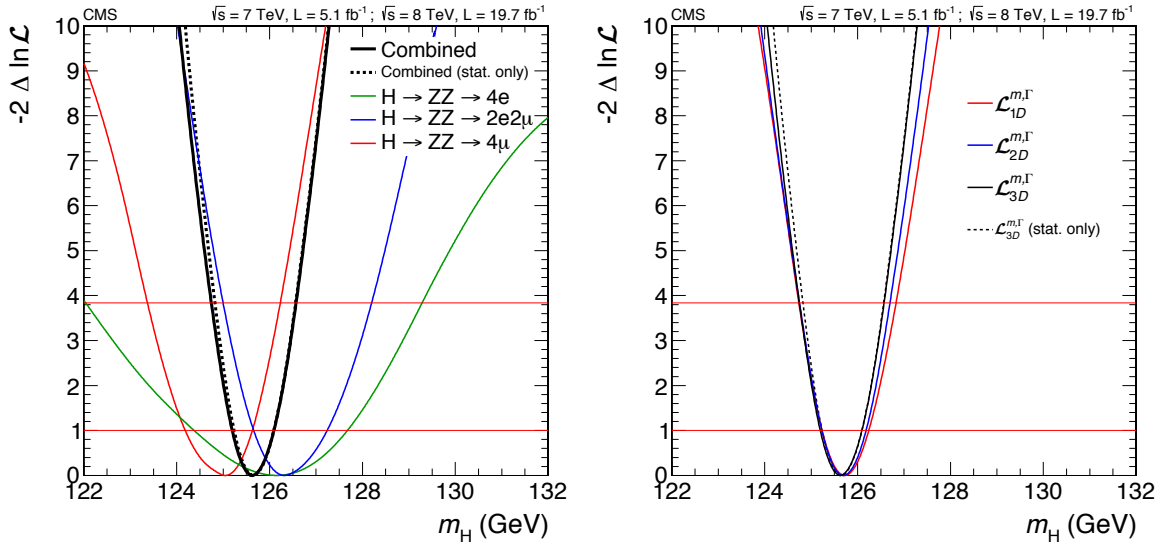


Figure 20: (left) Scan of the negative log-likelihood $-2\Delta \ln \mathcal{L}$ versus the SM Higgs boson mass m_H , for each of the three channels separately and the combination of the three, where the dashed line represents the scan including only statistical uncertainties, when using the 3D model. (right) Scan of $-2\Delta \ln \mathcal{L}$ vs m_H for the combination of the three channels, and using the 1D fit ($\mathcal{L}_{1D}^{m,\Gamma}$), 2D fit ($\mathcal{L}_{2D}^{m,\Gamma}$), and 3D fit ($\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{m,\Gamma}$). The horizontal lines at $-2\Delta \ln \mathcal{L} = 1$ and 3.84 represent the 68% and 95% CL, respectively.

Figure 21 shows the scan of the 3D likelihood versus the width of the SM-like Higgs boson with an arbitrary width. In this scan, the mass and the signal strength μ are profiled, as all other

nuisance parameters. This shows that the data are compatible with a narrow-width resonance, $\Gamma_H = 0.0^{+1.3}_{-0.0}$ GeV, with an upper limit on the width of the new resonance of 3.4 GeV at a 95% CL, for an expected upper limit of 2.8 GeV.

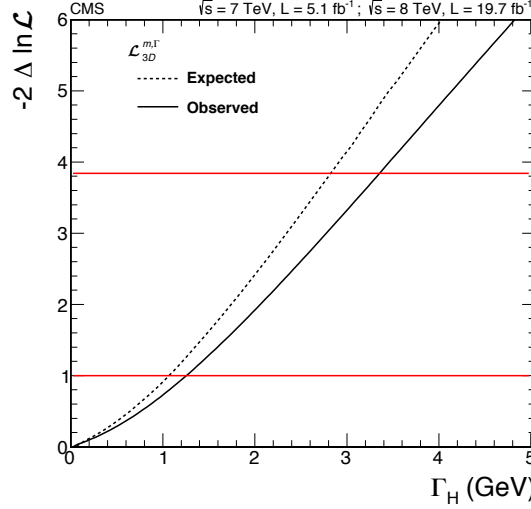


Figure 21: Scan of the average expected and observed negative log-likelihood $-2\Delta\ln\mathcal{L}$ versus tested SM Higgs boson width Γ_H obtained with the 3D fit ($\mathcal{L}_{3D}^{m,\Gamma}$). The horizontal lines at $-2\Delta\ln\mathcal{L} = 1$ and 3.84 represent the 68% and 95% CL, respectively.

13.3 Signal strength

The measured signal strength is $\mu = \sigma/\sigma_{SM} = 0.93^{+0.26}_{-0.23}$ (stat.) $^{+0.13}_{-0.09}$ (syst.) at the best fit mass ($m_H = 125.6$ GeV) with the models of Eqs. (12) and (13) for the 0/1-jet category and the dijet category, respectively. The result is $0.83^{+0.31}_{-0.25}$ in the 0/1-jet category and $1.45^{+0.89}_{-0.62}$ in the dijet category. The best fit values are shown in Fig. 22 (left). For each category, the signal strength is consistent with SM expectations within the uncertainties, which are dominated by the statistical ones with the current dataset.

The categorization according to jet multiplicity and the inclusion of VBF sensitive variables in the likelihood, like $p_T^{4\ell}$ and \mathcal{D}_{jet} , used to measure the cross section in the inclusive category, are also used to disentangle the production mechanisms of the observed new state. The production mechanisms are split into two families depending on whether the production is through couplings to fermions (gluon fusion, $t\bar{t}H$) or vector bosons (VBF, VH). For $m_H = 126$ GeV, about 55% of the VBF events are included in the dijet category, while only 8% of the gluon fusion events are included in the dijet category. As shown in Table 5, a fraction of 43% of WH and ZH production contributes to the dijet category. Those events contribute to the cases where the vector boson decays hadronically.

Two signal strength modifiers ($\mu_{ggH, t\bar{t}H}$ and $\mu_{VBF, VH}$) are introduced as scale factors for the fermion and vector boson induced contribution to the expected SM cross section. A two-dimensional fit is performed for the two signal strength modifiers assuming a mass hypothesis of $m_H = 125.6$ GeV. The likelihood is profiled for all nuisance parameters and 68% and 95% CL contours in the $(\mu_{ggH, t\bar{t}H}, \mu_{VBF, VH})$ plane are obtained. Figure 22 (right) shows the result of the fit leading to the measurements of $\mu_{ggH, t\bar{t}H} = 0.80^{+0.46}_{-0.36}$ and $\mu_{VBF, VH} = 1.7^{+2.2}_{-2.1}$. The measured values are consistent with the expectations for the SM Higgs boson, $(\mu_{ggH, t\bar{t}H}, \mu_{VBF, VH}) =$

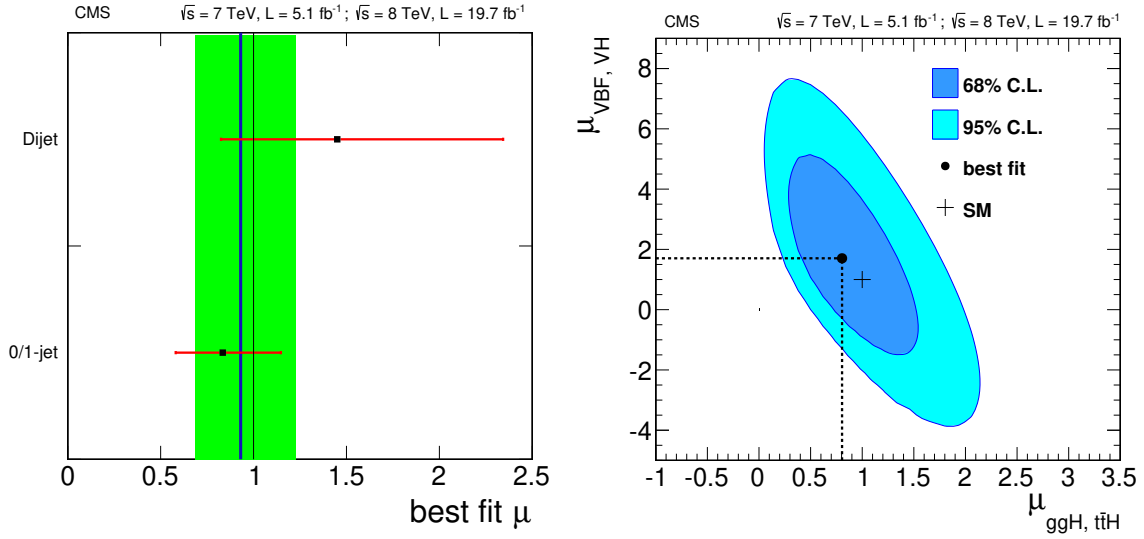


Figure 22: (left) Values of μ for the two categories. The vertical line shows the combined μ together with its associated $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainties shown as green band. The horizontal bars indicate the $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainties in μ for the different categories. The uncertainties include both statistical and systematic sources of uncertainty. (right) Likelihood contours on the signal strength modifiers associated with fermions ($\mu_{\text{ggH, ttH}}$) and vector bosons ($\mu_{\text{VBF, VH}}$) shown at a 68% and 95% CL

(1, 1). With the current limited statistics, we cannot establish yet the presence of VBF and VH production, since $\mu_{\text{VBF, VH}} = 0$ is also compatible with the data. Since the decay (into ZZ) is vector-boson mediated, it is granted that such a coupling must exist in the production side and that the SM VBF and SM VH production mechanisms must be present. The fitted value of $\mu_{\text{VBF, VH}}$ larger than one is driven partly by the hard $p_{\text{T}}^{4\ell}$ spectrum of the events observed in data when compared to the expectation from the production of the SM Higgs boson (Fig. 14).

13.4 Spin and parity

To measure the spin and parity properties of the new boson, the methodology discussed in Section 10 is followed. In addition to the models tested in Ref. [32] (0^- and $\text{gg} \rightarrow 2_{\text{m}}^+$), seven additional models are examined: 0_{h}^+ , $\text{q}\bar{\text{q}} \rightarrow 1^-$, $\text{q}\bar{\text{q}} \rightarrow 1^+$, $\text{q}\bar{\text{q}} \rightarrow 2_{\text{m}}^+$, $\text{gg} \rightarrow 2_{\text{h}}^+$, $\text{gg} \rightarrow 2_{\text{h}}^-$, $\text{gg} \rightarrow 2_{\text{b}}^+$. The discrimination is based on 2D probability density functions ($\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{J}^P}$), where the kinematic discriminants \mathcal{D}_{bkg} and \mathcal{D}_{J^P} are defined by Eqs. (8) and (9). The 1^\pm and 2_{m}^+ signal hypotheses are also tested by relying only on their decay information, i.e. in a production-independent way, using pairs of kinematic discriminants ($\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{dec}}, \mathcal{D}_{\text{J}^P}^{\text{dec}}$), defined by Eqs. (10) and (11). All models and discriminants, discussed in Section 10, are listed in Table 2.

For spin and parity studies, the event categorization based on jets is not used in order to reduce the dependence on the production mechanisms. Consequently, the VBF discriminants, $p_{\text{T}}^{4\ell}$ and \mathcal{D}_{jet} , are not used, resulting in the $\mathcal{L}_{2\text{D}}^{\text{J}^P}$ model defined in Eq. (16). Events in the mass range $106 < m_{4\ell} < 141$ GeV are used to perform these studies. The Higgs boson mass is assumed to be $m_{0^+} = 125.6$ GeV. The 2D probability density functions for signal and background, $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{J}^P} | \mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}})$ in Eq. (16), are obtained as 2D templates from simulation for signal and irreducible background and from control regions for the reducible backgrounds.

Figure 23 shows expected and observed distributions for the discriminants \mathcal{D}_{bkg} and $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{dec}}$. The

distributions are very similar for the SM and all alternative signal hypotheses but differ significantly from background. Figures 24 and 25 show distributions for the \mathcal{D}_{JP} observables for all tested signal hypotheses. Only one alternative hypothesis is shown on each figure. The distributions show events with $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{(\text{dec})} > 0.5$ to enhance the fraction of signal events for illustration purposes only. For the hypothesis tests, the full range of the discriminant is used.

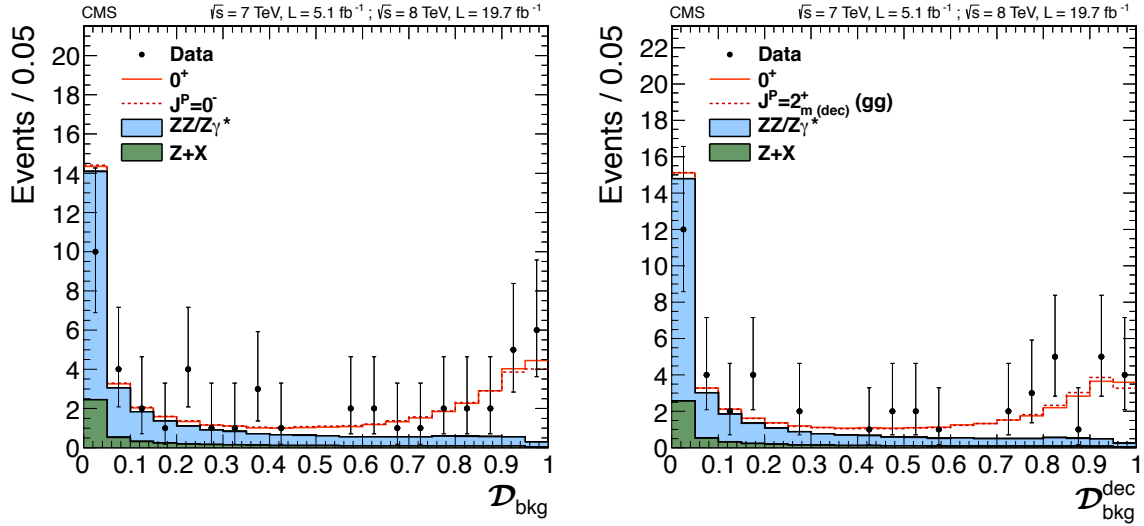


Figure 23: Distribution of \mathcal{D}_{bkg} (left) and $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{dec}}$ for the production-independent scenario (right) in data and MC expectations for the background and for a signal resonance consistent with the SM Higgs boson with $m_{0^+} = 125.6$ GeV.

The alternative signal models are defined by the tensor structure of couplings, however, the absolute values of couplings and, hence, the expected event yields are not uniquely defined. The cross sections for alternative signal hypotheses are left floating in the fit. The same approach is taken for the SM Higgs boson hypothesis, i.e. the overall SM Higgs boson signal strength μ is the best fit value as it comes out from data. This way, the overall signal event yield is not a part of the discrimination between alternative hypotheses. Consequently, for pair-wise tests of alternative signal hypotheses with respect to the SM Higgs boson, the test statistic is defined using the ratio of signal plus background likelihoods for two signal hypotheses $q = -2\ln(\mathcal{L}_{JP}/\mathcal{L}_{0^+})$. The expected distribution of q for the pseudoscalar hypothesis (blue histogram) and the SM Higgs boson (orange histogram) are shown in Fig. 26 (left). Similar distributions for the test statistic q are obtained for the other alternative hypotheses considered. The pseudo-experiments are generated using the nuisance parameters fitted in data.

To quantify the consistency of the observed test statistics q_{obs} with respect to the SM Higgs boson hypothesis (0^+), we assess the probability $P(q \leq q_{\text{obs}} | 0^+ + \text{bkg})$ and convert it into a number of Gaussian standard deviations. Similarly, the consistency of the observed data with alternative signal hypotheses (J^P) is assessed from $P(q \geq q_{\text{obs}} | J^P + \text{bkg})$. The CL_s criterion, defined as $\text{CL}_s = P(q \geq q_{\text{obs}} | J^P + \text{bkg}) / P(q \geq q_{\text{obs}} | 0^+ + \text{bkg}) < \alpha$, is used for the final inference of whether a particular alternative signal hypotheses is excluded or not with a given confidence level $(1 - \alpha)$.

The expected separations between alternative signal hypotheses are quoted for two cases. In the first case, the expected SM Higgs boson signal strength and the alternative signal cross sections are equal to the ones obtained in the fit of the data. The second case assumes the

nominal SM Higgs boson signal strength ($\mu = 1$, as indicated in parentheses for expectations quoted in Table 8), while the cross sections for the alternative signal hypotheses are taken to be the same as for the SM Higgs boson (the $2e2\mu$ channel is taken as a reference). Since the observed signal strength is very close to unity, the two results for the expected separations are also similar. The observed values of the test statistic in the case of SM Higgs boson versus pseudoscalar boson are shown with red arrows in Fig. 26 (left). Results obtained from the test statistic distributions are summarized in Table 8 and in Fig. 27.

Table 8: List of models used in the analysis of the spin and parity hypotheses corresponding to the pure states of the type noted. The expected separation is quoted for two scenarios, where the signal strength for each hypothesis is predetermined from the fit to data and where events are generated with SM expectation for the signal cross section ($\mu = 1$). The observed separation quotes consistency of the observation with the 0^+ model or J^P model and corresponds to the scenario where the signal strength is floated in the fit to data. The last column quotes the CL_s value for the J^P model.

J^P model	J^P production	Expected ($\mu = 1$)	Obs. 0^+	Obs. J^P	CL_s
0^-	any	2.4σ (2.7σ)	-0.9σ	$+3.6\sigma$	0.09%
0_h^+	any	1.7σ (1.9σ)	-0.0σ	$+1.8\sigma$	7.1%
1^-	$q\bar{q} \rightarrow X$	2.6σ (2.7σ)	-1.4σ	$+4.8\sigma$	0.001%
1^-	any	2.6σ (2.6σ)	-1.7σ	$+4.9\sigma$	0.001%
1^+	$q\bar{q} \rightarrow X$	2.1σ (2.3σ)	-1.5σ	$+4.1\sigma$	0.03%
1^+	any	2.0σ (2.1σ)	-1.9σ	$+4.5\sigma$	0.01%
2_m^+	$gg \rightarrow X$	1.7σ (1.8σ)	-0.8σ	$+2.6\sigma$	1.9%
2_m^+	$q\bar{q} \rightarrow X$	1.6σ (1.7σ)	-1.6σ	$+3.6\sigma$	0.03%
2_m^+	any	1.5σ (1.5σ)	-1.3σ	$+3.0\sigma$	1.4%
2_b^+	$gg \rightarrow X$	1.6σ (1.8σ)	-1.2σ	$+3.1\sigma$	0.9%
2_h^+	$gg \rightarrow X$	3.7σ (4.0σ)	$+1.8\sigma$	$+1.9\sigma$	3.1%
2_h^-	$gg \rightarrow X$	4.0σ (4.5σ)	$+1.0\sigma$	$+3.0\sigma$	1.7%

For many distributions, the observed value of the test statistic is larger than the median expected for the SM Higgs boson. This is due to strong kinematic correlations between different signal hypotheses, most prominently seen in the m_{Z_2} distributions. The pseudoscalar (0^-) and all spin-one hypotheses tested are excluded at a 99.9% or higher CL. All tested spin-two models are excluded at a 95% or higher CL. The 0_h^+ hypothesis is disfavored with CL_s value of 7.1%.

In addition to testing pure J^P states against the SM Higgs boson hypothesis, a measurement for a possible mixture of CP-even and CP-odd states or other effects leading to anomalous couplings in the $H \rightarrow ZZ$ decay amplitude in Eq. (6) is performed. The \mathcal{D}_{0-} discriminant is designed for the discrimination between the third and the first amplitude contributions in Eq. (6) when the phase ϕ_{a3} between a_3 and a_1 couplings is not determined from the data [49]. For example, even when restricting the coupling ratios to be real, there remains an ambiguity where $\phi_{a3} = 0$ or π . The interference between the two terms (a_1 and a_3) is found to have a negligible effect on the discriminant distribution or the overall yield of events. The parameter f_{a3} is defined as:

$$f_{a3} = \frac{|a_3|^2 \sigma_3}{|a_1|^2 \sigma_1 + |a_2|^2 \sigma_2 + |a_3|^2 \sigma_3}, \quad (18)$$

where σ_i is the effective cross section $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 2e2\mu$ corresponding to $a_i = 1, a_{j \neq i} = 0$. The $4e$ and 4μ final states may lead to either constructive or destructive interference of identical leptons and therefore slightly different cross section ratios. When testing the CP-odd contribution, the second term in the amplitude is assumed to be zero ($a_2 = 0$). The measured value of f_{a3}

can be used to extract the coupling constants in any parameterization. For example, following Eq. (6) the couplings are

$$\frac{|a_3|}{|a_1|} = \sqrt{\frac{f_{a3}}{(1-f_{a3})}} \times \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_3}}, \quad (19)$$

where $\sigma_1/\sigma_3 = 6.36$ for a boson with mass 125.6 GeV . The f_{a3} parameter does not define the mixture of parity-even and parity-odd states because it would also depend on relative strength of their couplings to vector bosons.

Figure 26 (right) shows a likelihood scan of $-2 \ln \mathcal{L}$, where the likelihood for the event i , $\mathcal{L}^i \equiv \mathcal{L}_{f_{a3}}^i \propto (1-f_{a3})\mathcal{L}_{2D}^{i,0^+} + f_{a3}\mathcal{L}_{2D}^{i,0^-}$. The normalization due to the acceptance is accounted for in $\mathcal{L}_{2D}^{J^P}$, defined in Eq. (16), and the normalization of the likelihood $\mathcal{L}_{f_{a3}}^i$ depends on f_{a3} . From the likelihood scan as a function of f_{a3} , the fraction of a CP-odd amplitude contribution to the cross section $f_{a3} = 0.00^{+0.17}_{-0.00}$, and a limit $f_{a3} < 0.51$ at a 95% CL, are inferred. The limit on f_{a3} can be converted into a limit on amplitude constants using the convention of Eq. (6): $|a_3/a_1| < 2.6$ at a 95% CL. The statistical coverage of the results obtained in the likelihood scan has also been tested with the Feldman–Cousins approach [150] yielding a consistent result.

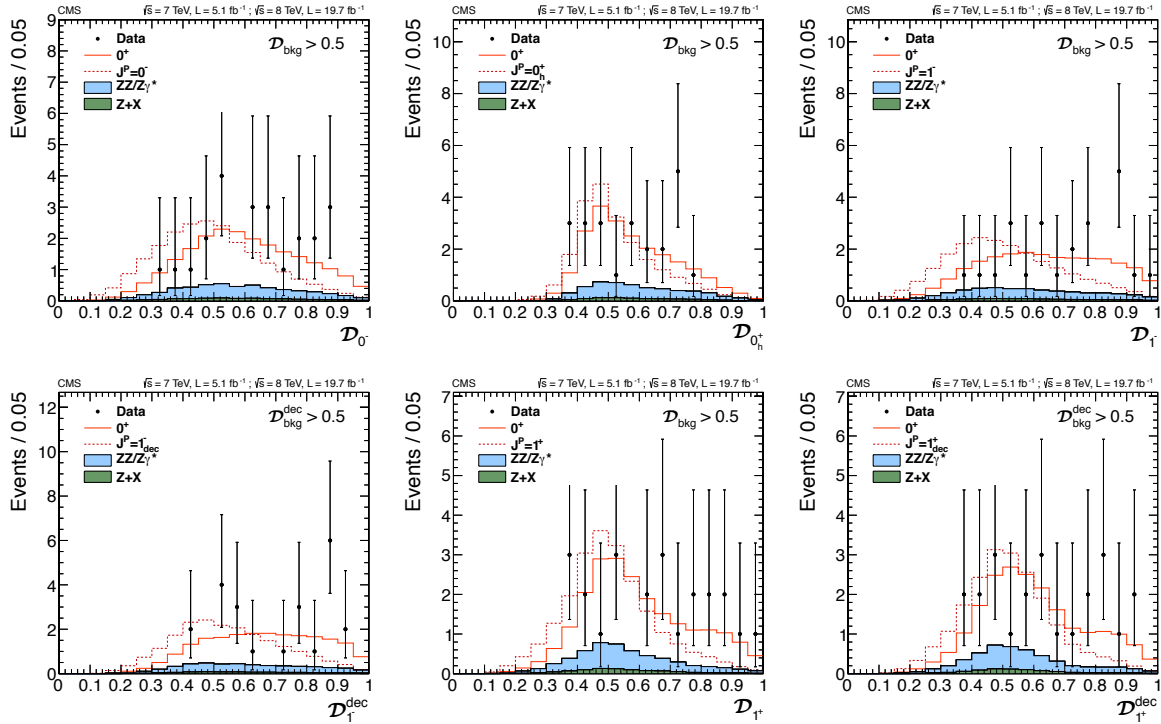


Figure 24: Distributions of \mathcal{D}_{J^P} with a requirement $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{(\text{dec})} > 0.5$. Distributions in data (points with error bars) and expectations for background and signal are shown: six alternative J^P hypotheses are shown. $J^P = 0^-$ (upper left), 0_h^+ (upper middle), $1^-(q\bar{q})$ (upper right), 1^- (lower left), $1^+(q\bar{q})$ (lower middle), 1^+ (lower right).

14 Summary

The observation and the measurements of the properties of a Higgs boson candidate in the four-lepton decay channel have been presented. The four-lepton invariant mass distributions

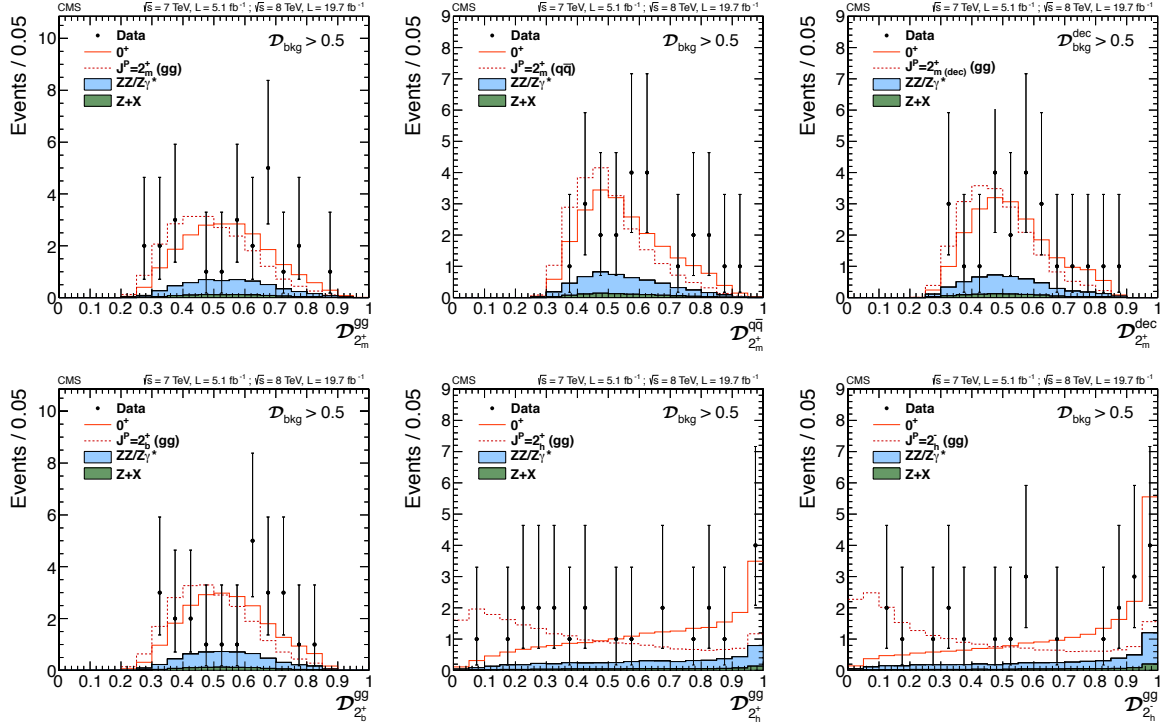


Figure 25: Distributions of \mathcal{D}_{J^P} with a requirement $\mathcal{D}_{\text{bkg}}^{(\text{dec})} > 0.5$. Distributions in data (points with error bars) and expectations for background and signal are shown: six alternative J^P hypotheses are shown. $J^P = 2_m^+$ for gluon fusion (upper left), 2_m^+ for VBF (upper middle), 2_m^+ for the production-independent scenario (upper right), 2_b^+ (gg) (lower left), 2_h^+ (gg), (lower middle), 2_h^- (gg) (lower right).

are presented for $m_{4\ell} > 70 \text{ GeV}$ using data samples corresponding to integrated luminosities of 5.1 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ and 19.7 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$. For the measurements the following experimental observables are employed: the measured four-lepton mass, the mass uncertainty, kinematic discriminants, and information sensitive to the production mechanism, such as associated dijet characteristics and transverse momentum of the four-lepton system.

The observation of the new boson [20, 21, 32] is confirmed in the 4ℓ final state, with a local significance of 6.8 standard deviations above the expected background. Upper limits at a 95% CL exclude the SM-like Higgs boson in the mass ranges 114.5–119.0 GeV and 129.5–832.0 GeV, for an expected exclusion range for the background-only hypothesis of 115–740 GeV. The measured mass of the new boson is $125.6 \pm 0.4 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.2 \text{ (syst.) GeV}$. The measured width of this resonance is smaller than 3.4 GeV at a 95% CL. The production cross section of the new boson times the branching fraction to four leptons is measured to be $0.93_{-0.23}^{+0.26} \text{ (stat.)}_{-0.09}^{+0.13} \text{ (syst.)}$ times that predicted by the standard model. The one associated with fermions and vector bosons is $\mu_{\text{ggH}, \text{t}\bar{\text{t}}\text{H}} = 0.80_{-0.36}^{+0.46}$ and $\mu_{\text{VBF}, \text{VH}} = 1.7_{-2.1}^{+2.2}$, respectively, consistent with the SM expectations.

The spin-parity of the boson is studied and the observation is consistent with the pure scalar hypothesis when compared to several other spin-parity hypotheses. The fraction of a CP-odd contribution to the decay amplitude, expressed through the fraction f_{a3} of the corresponding decay rate, is $f_{a3} = 0.00_{-0.00}^{+0.17}$, and thus consistent with the expectation for the SM Higgs boson. The hypotheses of a pseudoscalar and all tested spin-one boson hypotheses are excluded at a 99% CL or higher. All tested spin-two boson hypotheses are excluded at a 95% CL or higher.

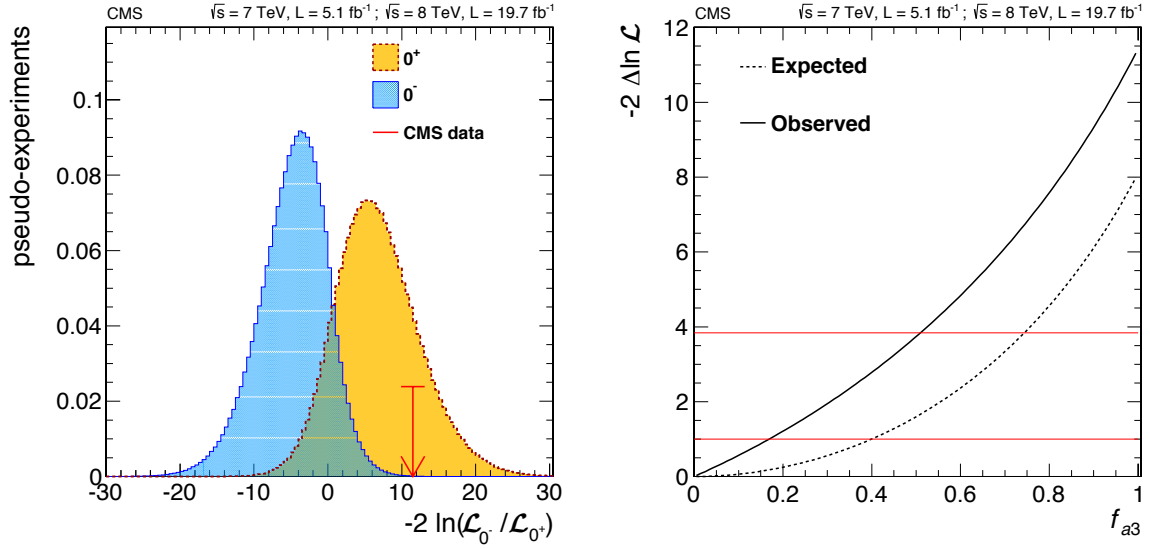


Figure 26: (left) Distribution of a test-statistic $q = -2\ln(\mathcal{L}_{0-} / \mathcal{L}_{0+})$ of the pseudoscalar boson hypothesis tested against the SM Higgs boson hypothesis. Distributions for the SM Higgs boson are represented by the yellow histogram and for the alternative J^P hypotheses by the blue histogram. The arrow indicates the observed value. (right) Average expected and observed distribution of $-2\Delta\ln\mathcal{L}$ as a function of f_{a3} . The horizontal lines at $-2\Delta\ln\mathcal{L} = 1$ and 3.84 represent the 68% and 95% CL, respectively.

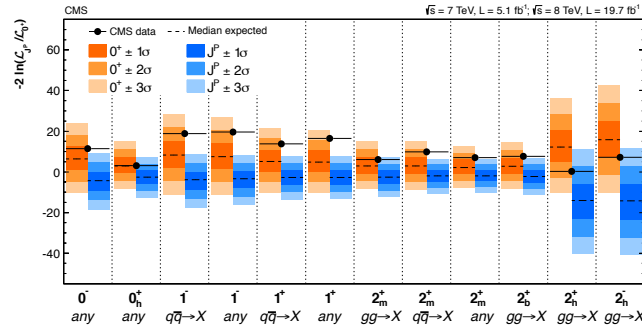


Figure 27: Summary of the expected and observed values for the test-statistic q distributions for the twelve alternative hypotheses tested with respect to the SM Higgs boson. The orange (blue) band represents the 1σ , 2σ , and 3σ around the median expected value for the SM Higgs boson hypothesis (alternative hypothesis). The black point represents the observed value.

The production and decay properties of the observed new boson in the four-lepton final state are consistent, within their uncertainties, with the expectations for the SM Higgs boson.

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